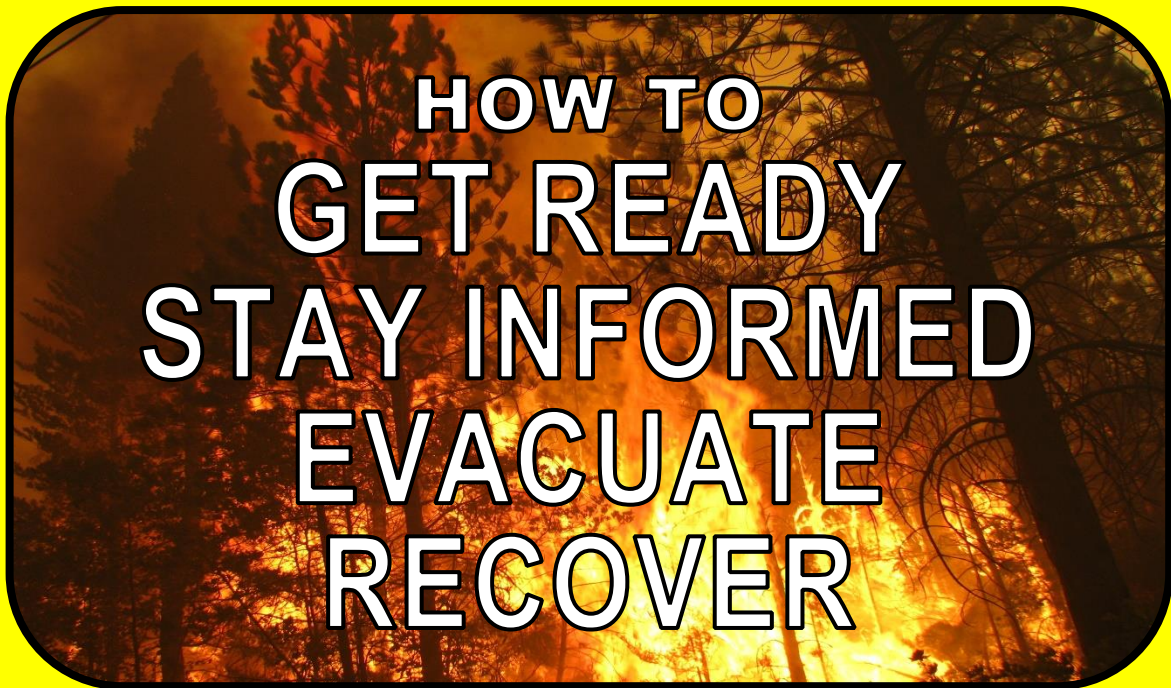


LAMORINDA RESIDENT'S GUIDE
to

WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS & EVACUATION



KEEP THIS DOCUMENT IN YOUR GO-BAG OR NEAR YOUR FRONT DOOR

Tear the cover off this booklet and place this page in a window near your front door, visible from the street, if you cannot evacuate and **NEED HELP**.

NEED

Do not depend on First Responders being able to assist you during the early stages of a disaster. Meet **NOW** with your neighbors and have plans to help each other evacuate early.

HELP

What will you find in this booklet?

Thank you for reading this booklet and getting prepared for an evacuation. Whether it is a wildfire, earthquake, or other disaster, you need to be ready to evacuate on short notice or, in some cases, to Shelter-in-Place.

Within this booklet, you will find information about emergency alerts and warnings, how to sign up for them, what they are, where to find them, and what to do when you receive one. Here you will learn about the most critical ones for our community.

You will also find Evacuation Tips. These are things that have been learned first-hand by evacuees and can save lives, time, and effort. There are things you can do now to prepare and things to do when you get an evacuation order.

There are Worksheets to help you gather, in advance, the documents needed to rebuild your life following a wildfire or earthquake.

Recovery following a disaster relies on preparation.

Lamorinda residents live in a very diverse area comprised of two cities, one town, and one unincorporated community. We are protected by three police departments, the Contra Costa County Sheriff, and the CHP. We have two fire districts plus the state's CalFire.

There are programs, laws, and regulations that vary by jurisdiction and by neighborhood. These are constantly changing. Some of the programs include chipper programs and Firewise neighborhoods, among others.

This booklet is for the whole of Lamorinda. We have information from the various municipalities, districts, departments, and neighborhoods together in a place where it can be kept up to date. Visit <https://resource.lamorindacert.org> to find this information.



resource.lamorindacert.org

Call **9-1-1** in a life threatening emergency Call **2-1-1** for non-emergency information

Please keep this booklet handy so that you can refer back to it as you get prepared for the disaster that may happen in our Lamorinda neighborhoods.

Message from the Chiefs

California has experienced a dramatic rise in both the number and severity of wildland fires. These fires have ravaged wildland-urban interface areas taking lives, destroying homes and obliterating infrastructure. Twelve of the 20 largest fires in California's recorded history have burned in the last five years and 15 of California's most destructive wildfires have occurred since 2015.

The information in this booklet is designed to help you prepare your family, home and neighborhood for wildland fires and for all other hazards, such as earthquakes and power failures. The more prepared we are as a community, the better we'll be able to respond to a catastrophic fire or other disaster in our area.

Please heed the recommendations presented here; register your cell phones, email, and VoIP phones with the Contra Costa County Community Warning System. Prepare your home by removing excess fuel from around your structures and be ready to evacuate anytime wildfire threatens our area.

Lamorinda's fire and law enforcement agencies are committed to keeping our community safe. You can help by preparing now for the fire season ahead.

**Lafayette, Moraga & Orinda Chiefs of Police,
Moraga-Orinda Fire District and Contra Costa Fire Protection District Chiefs**

Message from CERT

Thank you for reading this booklet and getting prepared for an evacuation. Whether it is a wildfire, earthquake or other disaster, you need to be ready to evacuate on short notice or, in some cases, to Shelter-in-Place. You can find out more and acquire critical skills by taking a series of CERT Basic Preparedness classes. Go to <https://classes.lamorindacert.org> to find out more about the classes and to sign up.

Lamorinda CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)

Program your cell with your sheriff's dispatch number **(925) 284-5010** and fire dispatch number **(925) 933-1313**. Don't rely on 911 from a cell phone. If you enter the Contact Name as "911 - Law" and "911 - Fire", they will be easy to find.

All web pages listed in this document (and many more) can be found at <https://resource.lamorindacert.org>

Warnings & Notifications

A fast-moving wildland fire that occurs late in the fire season and is pushed by high winds presents a unique threat to our Lamorinda communities. The information included here is intended to provide Lamorinda residents with an overview of the steps that should be taken to prepare for an evacuation if one becomes necessary. The best plans are always practiced and reviewed. Residents should use this information to create their individual and family evacuation plans. When you have completed your plan, **practice it!**

Law enforcement agencies managing an evacuation may issue either a “*pre-evacuation warning*” or an “*evacuation order*”. A **PRE-EVACUATION WARNING** means that the need to evacuate is *highly likely*. Residents should prepare to evacuate with little or no notice. Individuals that may need additional time to leave when an evacuation order is initiated should consider evacuating when the pre-evacuation warning is issued. An **EVACUATION ORDER** is a *mandatory order* by law enforcement to leave the area and provides for restricting access under California Penal Code, section 409.5. Law enforcement coordinates all wildfire-related evacuation actions with the fire service. The police will maintain the security of the evacuated area and will facilitate the re-entry and re-population of residents as soon as it is deemed safe for people to return.

Situational Awareness. By remaining aware of the weather and potential wildfire conditions, residents are able to make better informed decisions.

A **FIRE WEATHER WATCH** is issued by the National Weather Service when fire weather conditions could exist in the next 12 to 72 hours. A **RED FLAG WARNING** is issued for weather events that may result in extreme fire behavior which will occur within 24 hours. A Red Flag Warning is the highest alert. During these times all residents must use extreme caution because a simple spark could cause a major wildfire. A Fire Weather Watch is one level below a Warning, but fire danger is still high. The type of weather patterns that can cause a watch or warning include low relative humidity, strong winds, dry fuels, the possibility of dry lightning strikes, or any combination of the above.



In some areas, **Red Flag Day Parking Restrictions** coincide with Red Flag Warnings. Parking restrictions are on key collector roads and evacuation routes when a Red Flag Warning is in effect. The Red Flag Day Parking Restrictions are implemented on specifically designated roads for all on-street parking and stopping to keep roadways clear for potential evacuation and fire vehicle access. Stopping and parking restrictions during Red Flag Days often include the shoulder, areas within the public right of way, curves, and on roads with low sight distance. These are often addressed with street signage to notify residents that the Red Flag Day Parking Restrictions are in effect.

HOW DO I KNOW IF A RED FLAG WARNING HAS BEEN ISSUED?

- Many fire stations fly a red flag in front of the station on Red Flag Warning days.
- In other areas, roadside signs with Fire Danger Today conditions will show Extreme and have a Red Flag flying.
- Tune to 1670 AM on your radio within Lamorinda.
- Check social media (Nixle and NextDoor). Many departments issue notifications.
- To see the daily fire weather forecasts and any Fire Weather Watches or Red Flag Warnings, go to: <https://www.weather.gov/mtr/>

Warnings & Notifications

If there is a Red Flag Warning, pay close attention to your surroundings. Consider having your car loaded with everything you might need if you have to leave suddenly. Make sure you have at least a **¾ full tank of gas** and be ready to go.

Individuals with access and functional needs and the disabled need to arrange beforehand for not one, but several “guardian angels” to help get them out should evacuation become necessary. It is important for everyone to know their neighbors and their emergency needs.

Evacuation Messages can be delivered in many ways including CWS, radio and television. **If you feel that you are in danger, you should never wait for an “official” evacuation order.** Leaving early can reduce the possibility of being stuck in a traffic jam or blocked by smoke and fire and not being able to get out of the area.

Increase your **Situational Awareness** by **Subscribing to these services:**

The Contra Costa County Community Warning System (CWS) is the most important service for alerts, warnings, and orders. See the back cover for information about signing up to get these life-saving notifications.

NIXLE. The Lamorinda Police Departments each host a NIXLE site that is routinely used to transmit non-life-threatening messages to area residents. Nixle might be the first method used to notify residents of a small fire near the community. To opt-in for Nixle, text your ZIP CODE to 888777. See page 8 for more information.

SOCIAL MEDIA. See the <https://resource.lamorindacert.org> page for more information about alerts via social media.

Lafayette’s Community Information & Emergency Radio Station AM 1670

The City of Lafayette operates an FCC-licensed community information and emergency radio station that transmits 24 hours every day throughout the Lamorinda area on **AM 1670**. During emergencies, such as power outages, wildfires, and other disasters, the radio station will broadcast important information such as evacuation instructions. If power is out and internet or cell phone service is down, the radio station could provide you with critical information through a battery-powered or car AM radio. You can listen to Lafayette's Community Information & Emergency Radio Station online here: <https://bit.ly/LafayetteRadio1670AM> It is recommended that you set a button on your car radio for this station.

Evacuation Zones

Each city and town in Lamorinda is divided into Evacuation Zones to aid first responders. The zones are a communications tool for fire, police, and the Community Warning System. In an emergency, CWS will attempt to contact all landlines and registered devices in the impacted area.

While it is not critical for residents to know which zone they are in, you can, and should, find out your Evacuation Zone by going to <https://community.zonehaven.com>. Enter your address and the program will show your zone and any current information. This is how you can monitor your evacuation status and know when you can return to your home after an evacuation. Your evacuation zone number will be something like: LAF-E017



community.zonehaven.com

Write your Evacuation Zone here: _____

When a disaster is eminent or has happened, police and fire officials will determine which zones, or parts of zones, need to be evacuated.

Evacuation Message. When delivering an evacuation order to residents, the following information may be included in the evacuation message:

- Location of the hazard
- Location of Temporary Evacuation Point
- Time that is available to evacuate
- What to do with pets / livestock
- Procedures to check on the safety of neighbors

The Community Warning System (CWS) can, if necessary due to the scope of the disaster, utilize the Federal Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS) to broadcast through every cell tower in the county. It is important to have your cell phone near you and turned on at all times to get these notifications.

Evacuation Routes: Because the specific circumstances of an incident are unknowable in advance and they are very difficult to determine in the early stages of a fast moving fire, residents should know and practice several evacuation routes that bring them to major freeways. During any incident, road closures and route suggestions may be given via CWS or Nixle.

PLEASE
Please - Leave - Early - And - Safely - Evacuate

Evacuation Tips

You live in an area where an evacuation may be necessary due to wildfire, earthquake, or other threat. Here are some tips to make your evacuation go more smoothly:

DO NOW: Go-Bag

1. Have a Go-Bag for each member of the household stored near your vehicle with at least:
 - a. Sturdy, closed toe shoes
 - b. Socks and underwear (2 pair each)
 - c. Long pants
 - d. Long sleeve shirt
 - e. Jacket & Hat
 - f. N95 Masks (4-8)
 - g. Flashlight
 - h. Toiletry kit including medications for a week
 - i. Spare eyeglasses and sunglasses
2. Keep your electronics (cell phone, tablet, laptop with chargers) plugged in but all together and ready to grab and go.

DO NOW: Documents

1. Store in the cloud and/or have a memory stick or CD in your Go-Bags with .jpg or .pdf files of the following:
 - a. House documents including title, mortgage papers, insurance policies
 - b. Personal ID including driver's license, passport, social security, DD 214
 - c. Health documents including insurance policy, medical record, Medicare card, name and phone number of primary care physician, name and phone number of pharmacy, list of current medications with dosages, list of allergies and existing conditions
 - d. Keepsake photos
 - e. Photo or video record of each room in the house showing all valuable items



- f. List of all valuable items including purchase date, cost, model, and serial numbers

2. See the Document Worksheet for documents that are needed to rebuild your life if your house is gone.

DO NOW: Preparedness Actions

1. Register your cell or VoIP phone(s) with Contra Costa County's Community Warning System.
<https://cwsalerts.com>
2. Register your cell with your local Nixle. To opt-in for Nixle, text your zip code to 888777.
3. Set Nixle and CWS as Do Not Disturb available contacts on your cell phone. See <https://resource.lamorindacert.org/>
4. Have a battery operated radio, flashlight, pocketknife, shoes, socks, underwear, long pants, long sleeve shirt in a bag tied to the head of your bed. (In an earthquake you'll be able to find it.) This is in addition to your Go-Bag.
5. Learn how to open your garage door when the power is out. If you are unable to pull the cord and open it now, you will not be able to do it in an emergency.
6. Install an Uninterruptable Power Supply (UPS) for your cable modem and your portable phone base station to keep your home network and phones available when power is out. See <https://resource.lamorindacert.org/> for more information.



Evacuation Tips

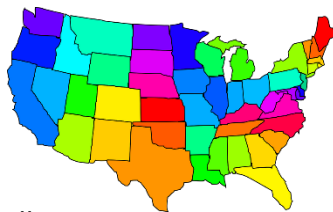
DO NOW: Disabled - Access and Functional Needs (D/AFN) individuals



1. D/AFN persons include anyone with mobility, developmental, cognitive, hearing or language issues. Frequently older but may be of any age.
2. Take special precautions so that D/AFN persons will know about evacuation orders at any time of day or night, even if power fails.
3. Pre-determine who will help any D/AFN person evacuate and have a backup. Family, friends, and neighbors who live *very close by!*
4. Prepare to take durable medical goods, oxygen, and any other special needs with you.
5. If you are the D/AFN individual, be proactive and find redundant, responsible people to help evacuate you. Do not rely on first responders to evacuate you. In an emergency, they may be dealing with other parts of the incident.

DO NOW: Communications

1. Predesignate an **Out-of-State Contact** (OoSC) and program the contact's cell number into each family member's cell phone.
2. The Out-of-State-Contact (OoSC) will be the clearinghouse for your family's text messages. This prevents too many texts or calls into and out of the local area.
3. My OoSC is:



Name: _____

Cell Phone #: (____) _____

DO NOW: Neighborhood

1. Know who in your neighborhood will need help to evacuate.
2. Know your neighbors and their schedules, including vacation plans.
3. Redundantly coordinate responsibilities for children, D/AFN persons and animals.
4. Select a Neighborhood Block Captain to organize the neighborhood and get every neighbor onboard a plan for checking on everyone's safety.

DO NOW: Animals

1. Have pet food in a Pet Go-Bag with leashes, poop-bags, water dish, medications, etc.
2. Keep your dogs and other animals confined indoors if there is smoke outside.
3. Have kennels for your dogs in case they have to go to a shelter.
4. Keep a collar on cats and keep them confined to a single room so you can get them easily. Keep a kennel for cats in the same room.
5. Make sure all of your animals are microchipped.
6. Have photos on your cellphone with you and your animals together to prove ownership.
7. For larger animals, have a pre-designated place for them, out of the area, and a way of transporting them. Contact your local horsemen's association, etc.
8. If you must leave and you don't have all of your animals controlled, leave gates and a downwind window open. Animals will frequently escape and survive.
9. Try to take your pets with you but don't become a fatality while trying to save your animals.



Evacuation Tips

DO AT RED FLAG WARNING: Vehicle



1. **Take only a single vehicle to help reduce traffic jams!**
2. Make sure that you have at least $\frac{3}{4}$ full tank of fuel before you park at home.
3. Park your vehicle:
 - a. In a driveway facing the street, *not in a garage*. If you have a driveway gate, leave it open. *OR*
 - b. On the street in the direction of departure.
4. Keep vehicle keys in your pocket.
5. Keep plenty of drinking water in your vehicle.
6. Load time-sensitive medications into vehicle. Unopened insulin can be stored at room temperature for up to 28 days.
7. Keep an emergency kit and a first aid kit in your vehicle.
8. Pre-load your vehicle with Go-Bags, keepsake items and small toys for your children.
9. Plan to evacuate at the first sign of danger, before a mandatory order is issued.



DO WHEN FIRE IS NEAR: Actions

1. If you feel you are in danger, evacuate early. Don't wait until an Evacuation Order is given. Traffic will be lighter, and you can get out safely.
2. Evacuating early also helps first responders keep roads clear and lets them move more freely to do their job. In an intense wildfire they will not have time to knock on every door.

If there is any possibility that the fire might reach you, consider sleeping in shifts so that one responsible person is awake at all times to monitor fire status.

3. If smoke is heavy, wear an **N95 mask** and use the air conditioner if you can set it to recirculate fan only. Do not open windows.
4. Turn off any propane tanks and move any stored fuel (lawnmower gas, etc.), propane tanks and other flammable items away from your house, including furniture, etc.
5. Place ladder to the roof near driveway to aid firefighters.
6. Fully open or remove thin, flammable drapes.
7. Close heavy drapes.
8. Cover up your body by putting on long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, sturdy shoes and a baseball cap or bandana to cover your face. Do not wear polyester or nylon, they will melt in high temperatures. Try to wear 100% cotton or wool.
9. Do not pre-wet any clothing to avoid steam burns.

DO AT TIME OF EVACUATION: Communicate

Text. Don't Call.

1. Use **TEXT** messages with no photos and no voice phone calls.
2. Send a text message to your Out-of-State-Contact (OoSC) when evacuating, indicating destination.
3. Send another text message to your OoSC when arriving at destination.
4. Report any missing family members to county sheriff's office.

(925) 284-5010

5. Report to the sheriff's office any found persons who were previously reported as missing.
6. Keep your OoSC up to date on status of all family members.
7. Place an 'EVACUATED' sign from the inside back cover of this booklet in a front window, visible from the street.

Evacuation Tips

DO AT TIME OF EVACUATION: Actions

1. Leave outside lights on for first responders.
2. Close and lock all doors, windows, and vents. This will prevent drafts and could help save your house.
3. Leave any driveway gates open.
4. Drive safely and cautiously out of the area.
5. Drive with headlights on even during daytime.
6. Be alert for downed power lines and emergency personnel.
7. Never approach or touch a downed wire. Consider all down lines as live high-voltage lines.
8. If you can go directly out of the area to a safe shelter area, do so.
9. Take this booklet with you.



NEED HELP

Do not depend on First Responders being able to assist you during the early stages of a disaster. Meet **NOW** with your neighbors and have plans to help each other evacuate early.

IF YOU GET TRAPPED AND ARE UNABLE TO EVACUATE:

1. Shelter-In-Place. See <https://resource.lamorindacert.org> for more information.
2. Keep your family together.
3. Stay inside your home and keep all doors and windows closed but keep them unlocked.
4. Leave inside and outside lights on.
5. Fill sinks and tubs with water.
6. Keep calm. Remember that if it gets hot inside, it is four to five times hotter outside.
7. Put a large “NEED HELP” sign in a front window, visible from the street. See inside front cover of this booklet.

In the past, all residents who were out of town during the evacuation period were asked to register, as soon as possible, with the Red Cross’ “Safe and Well program.”

That program is being redeveloped and is not available as we go to press. Check <https://resource.lamorindacert.org> for current status.

If you are looking for a relative, call 1-800-Red-Cross. Give them the name of the person you are searching for and your name and contact information. They will endeavor to connect you.

For information about current fires, **do NOT call 911**. Refer to <https://resource.lamorindacert.org> for links regarding fire status.

Disaster Recovery Document Worksheet

Type	Document	Issuer	Issue Date	Exp Date
Housing	Title Lease Rental Agreement			
	Mortgage			
	Insurance - Homeowners or Renters			
	Insurance - Earthquake			
	Insurance - Flood			
Personal ID	Birth Certificate			
	Passport			
	Driver's License, State ID			
	Green Card			
	Social Security			
	Military DD-214			
	Will & Trust			
Health	Insurance Policy			
	Medical Record			
	Medicare ID			
Auto	Insurance			
	Vehicle #1 Title or Loan			
	Vehicle #2 Title or Loan			
	Vehicle #3 Title or Loan			
Other	Bank, Brokerage			
	Credit/Debit Cards			

DOCUMENTS

HOW TO PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR WILDFIRES

WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION STEPS THAT CAN MAKE YOUR HOME SAFER DURING A WILDFIRE

Scan this QR code to sign up as interested in Firewise USA for your neighborhood.

A local representative will contact you.

<https://tinyurl.com/LMO-Firewise>



VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

1. HOME IGNITION ZONES

Limiting the amount of flammable vegetation, choosing fire-resistant building materials and construction techniques, along with periodic exterior maintenance in the three home ignition zones - increases the chances your home will survive a wildfire when exposed to embers and/or a surface fire. The zones include the **Immediate Zone**: 0 to 5 feet around the house; **Intermediate Zone**: 5 to 30 feet; and the **Extended Zone**: 30 to 100 feet.

2. LANDSCAPING AND MAINTENANCE

To reduce ember ignitions and fire spread, trim branches that overhang the home, porch and deck and prune branches of large trees up to (depending on their height) 6 to 10 feet from the ground. Remove plants containing resins, oils and waxes and ensure mulches in the **Immediate Zone** (0 to 5 feet around the house) are non-combustible options like crushed stone and gravel. Maintain vegetation annually.

FIRE RESISTIVE CONSTRUCTION

3. ROOFING AND VENTS

Class A fire-rated roofing products offer the best protection. Examples include: Composite shingles, metal, concrete and clay tiles. Inspect shingles or roof tiles and replace or repair those that are loose or missing to prevent ember penetration. Box-in eaves, but provide ventilation to prevent condensation and mildew. Roof and attic vents should be screened to prevent ember entry.

4. DECKS AND PORCHES

Never store flammable materials underneath decks or porches. Remove dead vegetation and debris from under decks/porches and between deck board joints.

5. SIDING AND WINDOWS

Embers can collect in small nooks and crannies and ignite combustible materials; radiant heat from flames can crack windows. Use fire-resistant siding such as brick, fiber-cement, plaster or stucco and dual-pane tempered glass windows.

6. EMERGENCY RESPONDER ACCESS

Ensure your home and neighborhood has legible and clearly marked street names and numbers. Driveways should be at least 12 feet wide with a vertical clearance of 15 feet, for emergency vehicle access.

BE PREPARED

Develop, discuss and practice an emergency action plan with everyone in your home. Include details for pets, large animals and livestock. Know two ways out of your neighborhood and have a pre-designated meeting place. Always evacuate if you feel it's unsafe to stay – don't wait to receive an emergency notification if you feel threatened from the fire.

Conduct an annual insurance policy check-up to adjust for local building costs, codes and new renovations. Create/update a home inventory to help settle claims faster.



OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Store firewood away from the home
- Mow the lawn regularly
- Prune low-hanging tree branches
- Landscape with fire-resistant plants
- Create small fuel breaks with hardscaping features

TALK TO YOUR LOCAL FORESTRY AGENCY OR FIRE DEPARTMENT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SPECIFIC WILDFIRE RISK WHERE YOU LIVE.



FIREWISE USA™
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

VISIT [FIREWISE.ORG](https://firewise.org) FOR MORE DETAILS

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Reducing your Home's Wildfire Risk

HOME:

1. Use metal vent screens with 1/8" mesh or special fire-safe vents.
2. Keep wooden fencing and patio decks away from the house. Leave a gap or install flashing so fire will not spread from fencing or decks to the house.
3. Chimneys should be inspected and cleaned by professionals. A recommendation is to have your fireplace and chimney cleaned every two years if it is used often.
4. **MAKE SURE THERE ARE WORKING SMOKE DETECTORS IN YOUR HOME** at least in every sleeping area and in hallways.
5. Have fire extinguishers and know how to use them. Check them annually.
6. Sweep your walkways, patios, and decks regularly to remove leaves, needles and other combustible materials that may gather against your house.
7. Remove vegetative debris (leaves, pine needles, twigs) from your gutters and roof.
8. Remove combustible materials from under your deck.
9. Caulk any openings along the top or bottom of wall siding or around windows where gaps could allow embers to enter your home.
10. Store your deck furniture, children's toys, and other combustible items inside or far away from your structures if a wildfire threatens.

GARDEN:

1. Remove woody, fire prone vegetation, especially within the 0-5 foot "no fire" zone around your structure. Juniper, rosemary, and other mature plants tend to have new growth on top of woody stems. Replace with stone mulch and succulents that are easy to maintain at 6" high or less.
2. While there are no "fire-proof" plants, choose plants that are low to the ground and have a low sap or resin content.
3. Choose fire retardant plant species that resist ignition such as rockrose, ice plant and aloe. Fire-resistant shrubs include hedging roses, bush honeysuckles, currant, cotoneaster, sumac, and shrub apples.
4. Group plants by water needs. Create "islands" of plants with space in between to break the fuel bed into non-continuous stretches.
5. Replace bare, weedy, or unsightly patches near your home with ground cover, rock gardens, vegetable gardens, or bare mineral soil.
6. Mulch is a fire hazard when it dries out. Rake it back by at least 2 feet from the side of your house and from combustible fencing. Use non-combustible materials such as stones, gravel, or bare mineral soil.
7. Remove fallen pine needles and leaves near structures to avoid fire embers igniting them. Do not allow leaves or mulch to exceed a depth of 3 inches within 30 feet of your house.
8. Create a separation between trees and shrubs or the ground – at least 6 vertical feet on flat ground, greater on steep slope – to eliminate a "ladder" of fuels that can spread flames to tree crowns or structures.
9. Move flammable material such as stacked wood at least 30 feet from your home or other structure.
10. For both drought and wildfire prevention, remember that less vegetation is better and easier to maintain.

WEED ABATEMENT:

1. Properties need to be maintained throughout the year. You may need to provide additional abatement throughout the fire season.
2. Cut as soon as practical, once annual grasses have died and turned brown (typically May or early June). Mow before 10:00 a.m. with wind speed < 5 MPH.
3. Never mow dry grass during Fire Weather Watches or Red Flag Warnings.

Fire Hazardous Plant List














Fire prevention is of the utmost importance in Lamorinda. The rich vegetation and hot, dry summers can create an environment that is highly susceptible to wildfire. Refraining from planting highly flammable vegetation is critical in helping to reduce the speed at which wildfires can travel and spread.

The California Fire Code and the California State Fire Marshal have authority over all properties within the state. When you sell property that is located in a high or very high fire hazard severity zone (all zones in MOFD), you'll need documentation of a compliant Defensible Space Inspection within 6 months of the sales contract date. In many areas, these plants may not be planted.















The following is a partial list of plant species are prohibited in some jurisdictions and discouraged in others. The reasons for listing the plants are generally because they are resinous and/or have new, green growth that covers older, dead leaves, needles or branches. These factors, among others, make the plant a fire hazard. Some emit poisonous vapors when burning. Different agencies have different lists and a few of these species are on some allowable plant lists. It is all up to the local Fire District and Inspector.

The photos below are examples of the species. Most plant genera have many taxa (species, sub-species and varieties). For example, Abies, the Fir genus, has about 66 species. Use the photos as a guide to the type of plant and then, if you want more specific information, search the web for "xxx species identification".

See a more extensive listing at: <https://www.lamorindacert.org/resource/>

TREES	 		<p>Cupressus Species-Cypress - Many of these trees are flammable. Some are very highly flammable, including the Leyland, Arizona and Italian Cypress. Remove cypress trees within 100' of structures and 15' of roadways or driveways. Limb up to 10' or 1/3 height of tree is less than 30' tall.</p>
		 	<p>Eucalyptus Species - non-native - consider removing within 100' of structures and 15' of roadways. Remove all limbs within 10' of ground. Remove all dead wood, peeling bark and undergrowth regularly.</p>
			<p>Picea Species-Spruce - Limb up 10' or 1/3 height is less than 30'. Remove all dead wood, dead needles, and twiggy growth regularly.</p>
			<p>Pinus Species-All Pines Except Dwarf Mugo - Needles are highly flammable. And, their resin is very flammable as well. Limb up to 10' or 1/3 of tree height. Provide canopy separation. Remove all ladder fuels. Remove dead wood.</p>
		 	<p>Thuja Species - Arborvitae - Thuja are an extremely fire prone species, and should not be planted in the defensible space zone or near roadways or driveways.</p>

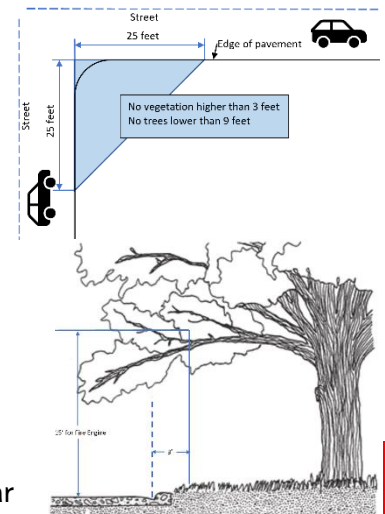
Fire Hazardous Plant List

SHRUBS / BRUSH			Adenostoma Fasciculatum – Chamis – CA native, should be removed within 30’ of structures. Maintain completely free of dead twigs and leaves. Part of the chaparral that grows quickly after fires.
			Artemisia californica – Coastal Sagebrush – CA native California sagebrush has a high ratio of dead:live material, making it highly flammable, characterizing it as "explosively flammable".
			Baccharis Species – Coyote Brush – after 2-5 years, most Coyote Brush builds up an increasing amount of dead, woody material that may be highly combustible. Remove within 30’ of structures.
			Bambusoideae – Bamboo – Bamboo should be removed within 30’ of structures or 10’ of roads and driveways. The tight masses of stems tend to accumulate lots of dead materials.
			Cytisus, Gentista, Spartum-Brooms – invasive non-native is highly flammable
			Cupressocyparis – Leyland Cypress - highly flammable
			Junipersus Species- Juniper – also known as “Gasoline Bush”, one of the most fire prone species. Should be removed within 100’ of structures and 10’ of roadways and driveways. Should be thinned into individual bushes.

Vegetation Management for Fire and Public Safety

Trimming your vegetation is a continual process that not only makes your property more attractive, but it makes your property compliant with the laws and regulations that are in place to keep the community safe from fire and traffic hazards. Below are guidelines that are a compilation of local, fire district, county, state, and federal laws and regulations. While a particular guideline may not be law in your area, they are all excellent guidelines to keep your property safe.

1. Intersection “triangle” sight distance – all vegetation at an intersection shall be maintained at a height of no more than 3 feet or trees lower than 9 feet for a distance of 25 feet from the intersecting roadway. This allows drivers to see traffic on cross streets. *FHWA-SA-07-018*
2. Vegetation removal – all dead and dying trees, bushes and other vegetation must be removed to prevent fire spread. *14 CCR § 1299.03*
3. Trees and other overhead vegetation must be trimmed to allow 15 feet (MOFD) or 13’6” (ConFire) of vertical clearance over roadways and 3’ back from edge of pavement. *MOFD 319.6.1*
4. Signs should be visible to drivers at all times. Control signs such as STOP, YIELD, SLOW, etc. should have clear sightlines of 250 feet in residential neighborhoods. Noncritical signs (bus stop, parking restrictions, street names, etc.) need sightlines of 150 feet. Cut or trim trees, brush, weeds or grass to clear a driver’s line of sight to the sign or traffic control device. *FHWA-SA-07-018*
5. Clear vegetation from around all fire hydrants to the street and at least 3 feet beside and behind.



Recovery

The first step to recovery is preparedness. Regardless of the type of disaster, wildfire, earthquake, flood, hurricane, terrorism, or any other, the first part of recovery is adequate preparation.

First, prepare your home to not be lost! Be ready for wildfire. This includes creating defensible space around your home. If the fire doesn't get to your home, your home is more likely to survive. If your home's exterior has small mesh vents, fire resistant roofing and siding, it is more likely to survive. If it is seismically retrofitted to current standards, it is more likely to withstand an earthquake. If you live on a hillside and have adequate retaining walls, it is more likely to withstand earth movement. Monterey pine trees, which are prevalent in Lamorinda, have a lifespan of 80 to 90 years. If you have dead or dying trees or too many trees that are too close to your house, remove them and replace them with more fire-resistant plants. Ask your fire department or nurseryman for a list of suitable fire resistant varieties for this area. Cypress trees and bushes are green on the outside but can be brown (dead) on the inside and burn very fast. Consider removing them!

Another part of preparedness is adequate insurance coverage.

Insurance What do you have that needs insurance? Your home, auto, boat, RV, personal items, and other such property needs to be covered. Consult your insurance agent and check the details of each insurance policy to find the risks that are covered. Most homeowner's policies cover fire *BUT NOT flood or earthquake*. Those are separate policies. Check the policy for the difference between water damage and flood damage. Typically, water damage is from water before it hits the ground.

If your home is destroyed, who is going to pay for your housing while you rebuild? How long will they pay for temporary housing? After a major fire, all the builders will be busy and building materials will be scarce so it will take much longer to rebuild than if it were just one home that burned. Adding additional housing time is frequently very low additional premium cost. Who will pay for debris removal? When you rebuild, you will need to build to current building codes. Does your policy include additional coverage for the increased cost of code compliance?

Is *all* your 'stuff' covered? Check the coverage of your homeowner's or renter's policy to find out the limits of coverage and what you must do to prove that you had the items. Frequently, a video tour of your home, inside and outside, with narration is a great tool for proving ownership. Be sure to describe what you are photographing including where it came from, when you got it and the value. If the values are high, get an appraiser to provide an appraisal and keep a digital copy with your other documents and your video. Make sure that all policies for your personal property include all-risk coverage so you are covered for theft, fire, earthquake, flood, etc.

Tear the cover off of the booklet and place this page in a window near your front door, visible from the street, if you have evacuated. Searchers will save time by not having to check your residence.

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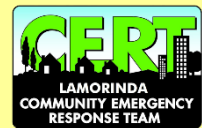
The Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services maintains our **Community Warning System (CWS)**. CWS is only used for life-threatening incidents. The CWS can call every AT&T landline in the county in just a few seconds. It can also call VoIP phones (Voice over Internet, such as Comcast, Vonage, Magic Jack, or others that rely on the internet) and cell phones, but **ONLY** if they are registered with the system. If you have a cell or VoIP phone, you **must** register with the *Community Warning System* for them to be able to alert you. Your information will be kept confidential and will not be used for any other purposes. To register Cell phones, VoIP phones or to subscribe to text messages and emails go to: <https://cwsalerts.com/> or call 925-655-0111.

Once you have signed up with CWS you can check and edit your account information by going to <https://cwsalerts.com> and clicking the "sign in" text in the top right corner of the page.

Staying informed is the best way to stay alive. To get warnings for fires and other disasters, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA) broadcasts alerts on Weather Radios. These are the same alerts that interrupt radio and television broadcasts.

Having a weather radio that can automatically sound an **alert** can give you time to get out to safety and save your life.

Retailers sell different kinds of weather radios that are equipped with different abilities and features. You have to be careful which kind you purchase—many radios offer the weather band, letting you listen to the feed, but **will not activate** on individual alerts for your county. Look for a radio, whether it is a desktop or portable, that has the **alert** feature. Some radios need programming for your county while others auto-sense. For information, go to: <https://www.weatherstationadvisor.com/best-weather-radio-reviews/>



Produced and distributed by a consortium of City of Lafayette, Town of Moraga, City of Orinda, Moraga-Orinda Fire District, Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, and Lamorinda Community Emergency Response Team

Call **9-1-1** in a life threatening emergency

Call **2-1-1** for non-emergency information