

PREPARE NOW FOR WILDFIRE EVACUATION

Don't wait until fire comes: You may not have enough time

THINGS TO DO

Right now: Before fire season

- Put as many items together in a go-bag as you can (see list on back, more at "Ferry County Search & Rescue/CERT" Facebook page).
- Stock up early with water, food and medications.
- Make contact with your neighbors.
- Determine a safe escape route and alternate.
- Move combustible fuels (firewood, propane, plants, leaves, needles) 100 feet from buildings.
- Remove items stored under decks/porches.
- Clean roofs and gutters of dead leaves, debris and needles that could catch fire.
- Keep lawns mowed to four inches.
- Replace or repair loose or missing roof tiles to prevent ember penetration.
- Clear vegetation from under large stationary propane tanks.
- Back up important documents to USB or cloud.
- See "Ferry County Search & Rescue/CERT" on Facebook for downloadable PDFs to post on your wall or door.
- Note: Replace perishable items like water, food, medications and batteries on at least a yearly basis.

When you learn a fire is in the area

- Park your fueled-up car facing outward and keep keys with you (don't store plastic gas cans in vehicle).
- Complete your go-bag and place it in your vehicle or near your home's main exit.
- Place important documents and digital files in the vehicle inside a waterproof container.
- Unplug automatic garage door openers in case of power failures.
- Have pet carriers and trailers ready to go.
- Close all doors and windows. Leave drapes and coverings open but leave lights on.
- Move indoor furniture into center of the rooms.

When it looks like you may need to evacuate

- Gather medical consent forms and medical information for dependents or minors.
- Turn propane tanks off (if safe) and move propane barbecue away from structures.
- Leave gates open and unlocked, hoses attached and available but not on, ladder available.
- Move flammable furniture to center of room.
- Remove flammable items such as window shades and curtains.
- Turn off any running water, including automatic sprinklers.
- If time allows, you can save and load additional items and prepare for your return.
- Close windows and doors, leave lights ON.

When a Level 3 evacuation order comes

- Evacuate!
- Stay together.
- Stay calm.

After a fire

- Return when it is safe.
- Make sure your utilities are operational.
- Maintain a "fire watch."
- Photograph damages for insurance purposes.

What do the evacuation levels mean?

LEVEL 1 – BE READY

Residents should be aware of the danger that exists in their area, monitor emergency services websites and local media outlets for information. This is the time for preparation and precautionary movement of persons with special needs, mobile property and (under certain circumstances) pets and livestock. If conditions worsen, emergency services personnel may contact you via an emergency notification system.

Ready your personal items you need to live: prescription drugs; IDs and credit cards; cell phone; computers; photos; important legal documents, etc. Get them packed up and ready.

LEVEL 2 – GET SET

When your area goes to level 2, that means GET SET to evacuate. Have your vehicle fully fueled and loaded and get set to drive to a predetermined safe location.

You must prepare to leave at a moment's notice: This level indicates there is a significant danger to your area, and residents should either voluntarily relocate to a shelter or with family/friends outside of the affected area, or if choosing to remain, be ready to evacuate at a moment's notice. Residents may have time to gather necessary items, but doing so is at their own risk.

This may be the only notice given: Emergency services cannot guarantee they will be able to notify you if conditions rapidly deteriorate. Area media services will be asked to broadcast periodic updates.

STAY IN TOUCH

You should have a walkie-talkie type radio tuned to FRS-7. Available at Walmart, other sports stores or Amazon. Communicate with your neighbors and others listening on FRS-7 to hear the situation in your area.

Plus, tune your FM radio to KETL-LP FM 100.5, check the "Ferry County Sheriff's Office/911" Facebook page and subscribe to county Emergency Management alerts.

Get Ferry County Emergency Management alerts!

When disaster strikes, get a text, email or phone call, with vital information that could impact your safety.

Sign up now!

Web: bit.ly/4o4ye3K
Phone: (509) 775-5225 x1112



KINROSS

The best practice for preparing to “GO” in the event of an actual Level 3 evacuation for a wildfire is to gather everything you need to take well ahead of time. This checklist gives a person a comprehensive list of the most important items you should be considering. The time estimates given below are suggestions only; there is no guarantee you will receive any warning at all. If you have only 15 minutes to leave your property, do not expect to gather much beyond your go-bag because the rest of your time will be taken up just securing the property, loading the go-bag and getting down the road.

Items to gather if you receive a 15-minute warning:

- The prepositioned go bag (all the items in the list at right)

Additional items to gather if you receive a 30-minute warning (all the above, plus):

- Safety deposit box key(s) (this could be included in go-bag “keys”)
- Address book, phone list
- Computer, monitor, laptop
- Jewelry & most-valuable personal possessions
- Checkbooks, bills to pay
- External hard drive (or back up everything on the cloud)
- Children’s comfort and entertainment items, toys, books

Additional items to gather if you receive a one-hour warning (all the above, plus):

- Take or safeguard guns, ammo
- Journals, diaries, letters
- Primary cosmetics
- Ice cooler w/ice
- Additional clothing as needed
- Secondary vehicles, RV

Additional items to gather if you receive at a two-hour warning or more (all the above, plus):

- Albums, photos, home videos
- Valuable items, cameras
- Family photos on display
- Heirlooms, art, collections

EVACUATION ROUTES - Preplanned

Primary route: _____

Alternate route: _____

Meeting location: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACTS - Preplanned

Out-of-area contact: _____

Local contact: _____

Additional: _____



Remember, Level 1 is Level 2 and Level 2 is Level 3 if anyone in your home has a respiratory or mobility issue. With these conditions it will take longer to get out safely.

IF YOU ELECT NOT TO EVACUATE

Washington state law respects your right to remain on your private property, but we implore you to fully understand the risks of refusing an evacuation order.

1. Operational Reality

- ◆ **Withdrawal of services:** Once fire behavior becomes untenable, emergency personnel will be withdrawn from the area. We cannot guarantee we will be able to reach you if you change your mind later.
- ◆ **Access restrictions:** If you leave your property for any reason (supplies, safety), the sheriff’s office may deny you re-entry until the area is declared safe.

2. Safety Realities

- ◆ **Environmental Hazards:** Thick smoke, heat, and blowing embers often cause vehicle engines to fail and make breathing impossible.
- ◆ **Resource Diversion:** If you require rescue during the fire, you are asking firefighters to stop defending homes and infrastructure to risk their lives for a preventable extraction.

3. Emergency Identification Protocol

- ◆ If you choose to remain against official recommendations, please provide responders (or someone else outside the wildfire area) enough detailed information that they may successfully verify how many persons/pets stayed in place for possible next-of kin notification.

If you decide to stay, please at least ensure your go-bag (including military records, genealogy and titles) is in your vehicle and your car is parked facing out.



BUILD A GO-BAG NOW

Pack supplies and valuables well before a wildfire event to reduce your emergency workload. For items you can’t pack ahead, be sure to know exactly where they are.

- Wallet, purse, keys, glasses plus spare eye glasses
- Cell phone(s), charger(s)
- Emergency cash, credit card (include change such as quarters)
- Clothing for three days; shoes, hats for season
- Flashlights, extra batteries
- Hearing aids, medications (include medical equipment such as cane, CPAP, O2)
- First aid kit, medical items
- Pets, carriers, leashes, pet meds
- Pet food, dishes, bedding, litter
- Signaling devices/transceiver radio
- Fire starter: matches, etc.
- Canned food and opener
- N95 dust masks, duct tape, plastic sheeting
- Non-sparking utility shut-off tool
- Local maps
- Infant food/diapers
- Pillows, sleeping bags, blankets
- Personal hygiene items
- Battery radio, (weather freqs) extra batteries
- Toilet paper, hand wipes, soap
- Jugs of drinking water
- Fire extinguisher
- Emergency reference manuals: first aid, etc.
- Genealogy records, files, military decorations, records, mementos, plaques
- Paper plates, cups, utensils
- Plastic bags, zip ties, rope, tarp, etc.
- School items: homework, pen, pencil, books, calculator, paper
- Licenses, vehicle titles, deeds
- Insurance, financial, medical data: wills, powers of attorney,
- Personal property list, photos or videos of personal property (important for insurance)

Go Bags for the Whole Family



www.youtube.com/watch?v=6wf7zQktwpQ

You can NOT fight a forest fire with a garden hose!

