

Getting set are added steps that people can take when the threat of wildfire exists, and as a wildfire's developing in and around your community just prior to evacuating.

I know that my home is in a high fire threat area. What additional steps should I be doing during the fire season to help ensure my family and pets are set to evacuate?

I'm glad you asked. During fire season conditions can change rapidly. It's imperative that you and your family maintain situational awareness and be ready to evacuate on short notice. Make sure to keep your emergency kit and those for other family members and pets in your car.

So why is keeping an emergency kit inside my car helpful?

Well, if you are at home and have time, ideally you can load up the emergency kits that you prepare into your car, but wildfire conditions can change suddenly, and you may be away from your home and unable to return. During fire season keeping your emergency kit in your car allows for you to act fast and be prepared should you need to evacuate.

And everyone at home can learn more about what items to put in their emergency kits by watching episode four of 7 Saturdays. In addition to loading my emergency kit in my car, what are some other things to keep in mind to make sure we are set to act during a wildfire?

When wildfire develops near you you should alert your family and neighbors of an approaching wildfire if time allows. Back your vehicle into your driveway. If not already, load your emergency kits into your car, maintain situational awareness by monitoring official channels from authorities. Dress for safety in a long sleeve cotton shirt, jeans, sturdy boots, gloves, and a face covering, and drink plenty of water.

And David, this is the time, if it's safe to do so, to make sure to bring those vulnerable items we have outdoors inside to protect our home.

Yes, this is when you want to bring combustible items like your barbecue's propane tank and patio furniture cushions inside an enclosed garage, or make sure that they are well away from your home.

So we've covered getting ready and set, but when do we know it's time to go and leave our homes?

Let's talk about appropriate channels to follow when it comes to deciding to evacuate. You should always listen to the directive issued by public safety officials, fire and law enforcement. Or if you feel threatened, take the initiative on your own to evacuate. There are also alert systems used by many county and local agencies that you should make sure you are signed up for.

We spoke about this on episode four of 7 Saturdays. Fire departments, police departments, and warning software will call, send text messages, or emails, to alert people of wildfire and other emergencies.

Exactly, being registered with your county or local alert system will save time and ensure you get warnings by monitoring cell phones and other devices for alert messages during a developing emergency.

Where else should we be looking for information?

Pay attention to the news. Make sure you have a battery operated radio, and follow social media. Make sure to follow the official accounts of your local fire and law enforcement agencies as they will post current, wildfire, and evacuation information.

I really appreciate you breaking down these steps. We covered some really valuable information today, David. As we approach warmer temperatures, I'm feeling much better about my game plan to be ready before fire season, have our family and pets set for a potential evacuation, and if needed prepare to go and evacuate on a moment's notice.

DAVID: The actions that we take now to follow the ready, set, go game plan, the more prepared our family and our homes will be when it comes to wildfire.

Preparation is key. And if you want to learn more about how you prepare your home for wildfire season, you can watch the other episodes of 7 Saturdays to a More Fire Resistant Home at SafetyActionCenter.PGE.com.