A dramatic scene of a fire at night. In the foreground, a fire truck is partially visible, with its lights on. The background is filled with bright orange and yellow flames and falling sparks, creating a sense of urgency and danger. The overall color palette is dominated by warm, fiery tones.

CITY OF GRASS VALLEY

**EMERGENCY +
PREPAREDNESS**

GUIDE

**BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
THE CITY GRASS VALLEY**

2019



Fire Chief- Mark Buttron, Smokey the Bear, Police Chief- Alex Gammelgard

In the midst of rushing through everyday life, it is important to take a minute to prepare for emergencies. Being prepared helps you and your family minimize the impact of a disaster, such as an earthquake, or an emergency, such as a broken leg. Knowing what to do is your best protection and your responsibility. The best way to make your family and your home safe is to be prepared before disaster strikes.

In our area we have the potential for disasters caused by earthquakes, wildland fire, and weather related emergencies. Take time to plan for the problems related to each type of disaster.

If you have pets, make a pet plan. Keep in mind, animals may not be allowed inside Emergency shelters due to health regulations.

Find out how to help elderly or disabled persons in your home or neighborhood. Ask about disaster plans at your workplace, your children's school or daycare Center, and other places where your family spends time.

GENERAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

An emergency can happen anytime. You and your co-workers should know what to do if an emergency happens at work. Even if you think you are not in a disaster-prone area, something like a chemical tanker truck overturning or a flood can prevent you from getting to or from work. No business should operate without a disaster plan. If you are a business owner developing a business disaster plan, consider how the disaster could affect your employees, customers and workplace. Consider how you could continue doing business if the area around your facility is closed or streets are impassable. Consider what you would need to serve your customers if your facility is closed.

Employees Should:

- Learn and practice emergency plans.
- Know at least two exits from each room (if possible).
- Be able to escape in the dark by knowing, for instance, how many desks or cubicles are between your workstation and two of the nearest exits.
- Know the post-evacuation meeting location.
- Know the location of fire extinguishers and how to use them.
- Keep a copy of co-workers' phone numbers at home.
- Make a list of important personal numbers. Keep a printed list at your desk or near other phones. Do not rely on electronic lists, direct-dial phone numbers or computer organizers that may not work in an emergency.
- Gather personal emergency supplies in a desk drawer: include a flashlight, walking shoes, dust mask, a water bottle and non-perishable food.
- Report safety system damage or malfunctions.
- Never lock or block fire exits or doorways. However, keep fire doors closed to slow the spread of smoke and fire.
- Make specific plans to help each other. Determine how you will help each other in the event that public transportation is shut down or thoroughways are impassable. Offer to temporarily house, transport or feed your co-workers in case of emergency.

Employers Should:

- Ensure that an emergency plan is developed and practiced at least every six months.
- Make specific plans for employees who are disabled or who may require assistance during an emergency.
- Put together an office phone tree. Develop a list of everyone's home phone number and identify who is responsible for making contact with others. Provide a copy for each employee.
- Keep a phone list of all key employees with you at all times.
- If you have a voicemail system, designate one remote number on which you can record messages for employees and provide them a number.
- Arrange for programmable call forwarding for your main business lines.
- Leave keys and the alarm codes with a trusted employee or friend in case you cannot get to your facility.
- Backup computer data frequently.
- Purchase a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio with a tone alert system.



MAKE A FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN

- *Meet with household members* — Explain the dangers and your emergency plans to children. Work with them as a team to prepare your family to deal with emergencies.
- *Discuss* what to do about power outages and personal injuries.
- *Post emergency telephone numbers* near telephones.
- *Learn* how to turn off the water, gas and electricity at your home.
- *Decide where to meet* — In the event of an emergency, you may become separated from family members. Choose a place right outside your home in case of a sudden emergency, like a fire. Choose a location outside your neighborhood in case you cannot return home.
- *Choose an “Out-of-Town” contact* — Ask an out-of-town friend or relative to be your contact in the event of a disaster. Everyone must know the contact’s phone number. It is often easier to make a long distance phone call than a local call from a disaster area.
- *Teach children* how to make long distance telephone calls.
- *Complete a family communications plan* — Your plan should include contact information for family members, work and school.
- *Escape routes and safe places* — In a fire or other emergency, you may need to evacuate very quickly. Be ready to get out fast. Be sure everyone in your family knows the best escape routes out of your home as well as where the safe places are in your home for each type of disaster. Draw a Home Family Escape Plan with your family outlining two escape routes from each room.

Since no single method of communication is failsafe, regional public safety officials use a combination of four methods to keep the public informed during an emergency.

Local government Public Information Officers (PIO) gather key information from first responders and elected officials and produce press releases that are then *broadcast by local media outlets*.

Emergency Managers can initiate the Emergency Alert System (EAS). This system interrupts local *radio and television broadcasts with emergency alerts* and instructions to the public.

First Responders *may go door-to-door* alerting citizens of impending hazards, or make announcements via loudspeaker while driving in area.

CODE RED can be used to automatically *telephone residents and relay emergency information*.

CODE RED is a computer system that calls telephones in particular geographic areas, and plays a recorded message. However, there are two issues to consider: availability of electric utility power, and ability of the system to contact a particular type of telephone.

In an emergency, the electric utility power may fail at any time. This means that any telephone which relies on power to function will not work.

To receive emergency alerts on your landline, cell phone, text and/or email address, sign up for emergency alerts on CODE RED at www.mynevadacounty.com/codered

THE EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM PRIMARY STATIONS:

In an emergency tune to:
KVMR 89.5 FM • KNCO 830 AM •

WHAT IS DEFENSIBLE SPACE?

Defensible space is the area between a house and an oncoming wildfire where the vegetation has been modified to reduce the wildfire threat and to provide an opportunity for firefighters to effectively defend the house. Sometimes, a defensible space is simply a homeowner's properly maintained backyard. The City of Grass Valley Municipal Code Seciton 8.16 Article II defines Vegetation Managment requirements in the City.

Step One: Determine the size of an effective defensible space.

Step Two: Remove dead vegetation.

Step Three: Create a separation between trees and shrubs.

Step Four: Remove ladder fuels.

Step Five: Create a Lean, Clean and Green Area extending 5 feet from the house.

Step Six: Create a noncombustible area at least 5 feet wide around the base of the house.

Step Seven: Maintain the Defensible Space Zone.

Please visit www.cityofgrassvalley.com to learn more about the above steps.

MAKE A PLAN IF YOU MUST LEAVE YOUR HOME

- *Begin evacuation immediately* when the official warning is issued. Your life might be in danger, do not delay leaving your home.
- *Have a place to go* such as the home of a family member or friend, or a shelter. Plan your route before the disaster.
- *Listen to the media* for updates on the situation.
- *Notify family or friends* of your plans, if possible. Tell them when you are leaving and where you are going.
- *Use travel routes* specified by local officials. Know where you are going before you leave.
- *Bring extra cash.* Banks may be closed, ATMs may not work.
- *Take your disaster supplies kit.*
- *Secure and lock your home* before you leave.
- *Bring toys, books and games* for entertainment.
- *If driving in smoke,* turn on headlights, move as far to the right as possible and drive slowly.
- *When you arrive* at a shelter make sure you register with official personnel.
- *Don't panic.* Drive slowly and arrive safely at your destination.



MAKE A PLAN IF YOU MUST STAY AND SHELTER IN PLACE.

- *Have your disaster supplies kit* in hand, including pet supplies.
- You need to *store at least a three-day supply* of water for each person in your household. Stored water should be changed every six months.
- *Notify family or friends* of the situation if possible.
- *Work with neighbors* to develop a neighborhood plan that keeps everyone informed.
- Listen to your battery operated *radio for emergency updates.*
- Once you have decided to stay, *remain in your home* until the emergency is over.

Wildland fires continue to be a threat to the Grass Valley area. During a fire emergency, safety of lives is the number one priority. In order for the Fire Department to effectively work to control the fire or protect homes it is best if citizens are safely evacuated. Your life is the highest importance and if you, your family and neighbors are in a safe place the responders have accomplished the most important goal.

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING A WILDLAND FIRE

- ***Wildland fires can start and move very quickly.*** Smoke and embers will be moved by the wind created by the fire. The situation can change in minutes, listen to the radio or television for updates and be ready to leave if necessary.

IF A WILDLAND FIRE IS APPROACHING

What should I wear and have with me?

- Wear only cotton or wool clothes.
- Proper attire includes long pants, long-sleeved shirt or jacket and boots.
- Carry gloves, a handkerchief to cover your face, water to drink, and goggles.
- Keep a flashlight and portable radio with you at all times.
- Tune in to a local radio station and listen for instructions.

How should I prepare my car?

- Park vehicles in driveway, pointing out with the keys in the ignition.
- Roll up the windows.
- Close the garage door, but leave it unlocked.
- If applicable, disconnect the electric garage door opener so that the door can be opened manually.

How should I leave my home?

- Close all interior doors.
- Remove lightweight, nonfire-resistant curtains and other combustible materials from around the windows.
- Close fire-resistant drapes, shutters and Venetian blinds.

What about the outside of my home?

- Place combustible patio furniture in the house or garage.
- Close all exterior vents if possible.
- Prop a ladder against the house to provide firefighters with access to the roof.
- Make sure that all garden hoses are connected to faucets and leave turned off.
- Close all exterior doors and windows.
- Turn on outside lights.
- If available and if there's time, cover windows, attic openings and vents with plywood that is at least one-half inch thick.
- If you have an emergency water source (pool, pond, etc.) and/or portable water pump, clearly mark its availability so it can be seen from the street.

WHEN A WILDLAND FIRE OCCURS

Stay calm and do not panic. You will think more rationally if you remain calm. Keep family members and pets together. Wear long pants, long sleeved shirts made from natural fibers, and boots or sturdy shoes for protection from the heat. If advised to evacuate, **DO SO IMMEDIATELY**. Drive slowly, turn on your vehicle headlights and stay as far to the right of the road as possible.

EVACUATION

Evacuation is the best protection.

Leave if you feel threatened.

If an evacuation is ordered, every minute counts. Be prepared with your GO Bag, stay informed via trusted media outlets, take your pets. Watch for direction from Law Enforcement, Fire Personnel, Public Works or other officials.

SHELTER IN PLACE

If evacuation routes are blocked you may be required to stay in your home during the fire. Call 911 to advise of your situation. If you shelter in place, stay away from windows, move to an interior room or hallway. If the house does catch fire there will still be time to get out. Do not try and leave until the fire has passed and you can safely drive to a shelter location.

TEMPORARY REFUGE AREA (TRA)

Evacuation is the best protection. Leave if ordered or feel threatened.

Temporary Refuge Area (TRA)- A large open area where you can take refuge for temporary shelter and short term relief if you cannot evacuate or have been cut off from an evacuation route. After fire front passes evacuate to an area of safety.

If you are unable to leave a TRA might be your only option.
TRA's and Shelter in Place should be considered last options

Example of TRA's

Large parking lots with very limited or no flammable vegetation.
Green, mowed fields that will not support fire. (i.e. Sports Fields)



RED FLAG WARNINGS

The National Weather Service (NWS) offices issue Fire Weather Watches and Red Flag Warnings (RFW) for critical fire weather patterns that contribute to the extreme fire danger and/or fire behavior.

A Fire Weather Watch is used to alert agencies to the high potential for development of a Red Flag event in the 12-72 hour time frame. The Watch may be issued for all or selected portions of a fire weather zone. A watch may be issued in the first 12 hour time period only for an expected dry thunderstorm event.

Red Flag warning/fire weather include:

- Elevated Temperature
- Sustained and Gusty Winds
- Low Relative Humidity

Expected RED FLAG Warning consider the following:

- Have a full tank of gas
- Park headed out of driveway
- Cell phones charged
- Have 'GO' bag ready
- Stay Informed/ maintain situation awareness on fires in the area



Red Flag Warning

Tonight through Tuesday Afternoon

Red Flag Warning



 **Impacts**

- Dangerous & rapid spread of large wildfire

 **Timing**

- Tonight through Tuesday Afternoon

 **Winds**

- **Coastal Range & Sacramento Valley:** Gusts up to 25 mph, locally higher
- **Sierra:** Gusts up to 30 mph





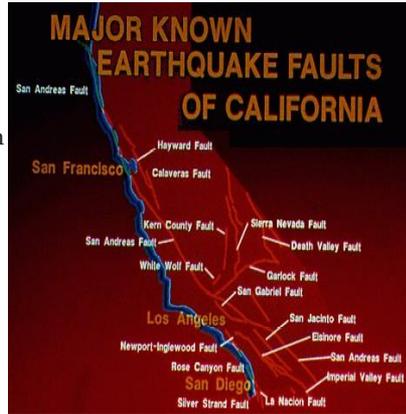
Sacramento, California

WHAT TO EXPECT IN AN EARTHQUAKE

During an earthquake the “solid” earth moves like the deck of a ship. The actual movement of the ground is seldom the direct cause of death or injury. Most casualties result from falling objects and debris because the shocks can shake, damage or demolish buildings. Earthquakes may also trigger landslides, cause fires and disrupt utilities.

BEFORE AN EARTHQUAKE

- *Check your home for potential hazards.* Place large and heavy objects on lower shelves. Securely fasten shelves to walls. Brace or anchor high or top-heavy objects. Strap water heaters to keep them from falling.
- *Know where and how to shut off electricity, gas, and water* at main switches and valves. Have the proper tools close by so that there is no delay when it is time to shut off the utilities.
- *Hold occasional drills* so each member of your household knows what do in an earthquake.
- Have your Disaster Supply Kit *ready and accessible.*



WHAT TO DO DURING AN EARTHQUAKE

- *First and foremost, stay calm.* Think through the consequences of any action you take.
- *If you are inside, stay inside;* take cover under a heavy desk or table. Stand under a supported doorway or along an inside wall away from any windows.
- *If you are outside stay there,* stay away from tall buildings, look up and watch for falling objects. If you are in a moving car, safely stop the car and remain inside.

WHAT TO DO AFTER AN EARTHQUAKE

- *Check yourself and people nearby for injuries.* Provide first aid if needed. Be prepared for additional earthquake shocks called “aftershocks”. These are smaller than the main shock, some may be large enough to cause additional damage or bring weakened structures down.
- *Check gas, electric, and water lines.* If damaged, shut off valves. Turn off appliances. Do not light matches or candles. Check for natural gas leaks by odor only. If a gas leak is detected, open all windows and doors, leave immediately and do not re-enter the building until a utility official says it is safe.
- *Check your home for damage,* approach chimneys with caution. If there is any question of safety leave your home and do not re-enter until the item can be checked. Open any closet or cupboard cautiously due to falling objects.
- *Don't flush toilets* until sewer lines are checked.
- *Check with neighbors* to see if your assistance is needed.

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING A FLOOD EVENT

Flash floods, abundant rain, and rain-on-snow events are the three types of flood phenomena that occur throughout the state. In Grass Valley these events cause small creeks to overflow and homes in low lying areas can experience some localized flooding.

BEFORE A FLOOD

- Check drains and drainage to divert water away from your home. Build barriers and landscape around your home or buildings to reduce or stop floodwaters and mud from entering. Seal lower walls with waterproofing compounds and install “check valves” in sewer traps to prevent flood water from backing up into drains.

DURING A FLOOD

- Listen for updates from the radio and television. Know the location for sandbags and sand (City of Grass Valley Corp Yard: 556 Freeman Lane).
- Move valuables out of the path of water or mud. Contact local authorities and notify them of the location of the flooding. If necessary, turn off utilities before problems escalate.
- If water is diverted check with neighboring properties to ensure that additional damage is not occurring.

AFTER THE FLOOD

- Prior to entering a building, check for structural damage. Check the foundation walls and posts. Make sure it is not in danger of collapsing. Watch for electrical shorts or live wires before making certain that the main power switch is turned off. Remove all floodwaters from under structures as soon as possible.



HOW TO TURN OFF GAS



- Make sure all family members know how and when to shut off the gas supply.
- *If you smell gas* after an earthquake, shut off the main gas valve.
- *Use a wrench* to turn the valve either way until it is perpendicular to the pipe.
- *Attach the wrench* to the gas meter with a wire.

DEVELOP A PET PLAN

In the event of a disaster, if you must evacuate, the most important thing you can do for your pets is to evacuate them too. If you are away from your home when your neighborhood is evacuated you will not be allowed back to retrieve your pet, so make arrangements with neighbors before a disaster strikes.

Pets are not allowed at public shelters for health and space reasons, so arrangements must be made in advance for pets. Pets might not be allowed in hotels or motels so planning is crucial.

Make sure that your pets are current on their vaccinations. Pet shelters may require proof of vaccines.

Keep a collar with identification on your pet and have a leash on hand to control your pet.



If possible, have a properly-sized pet carrier for each animal.

Have a supply of pet food, water and any required medications.

Animals brought to a pet shelter are required to have a proper identification collar, proper identification on all belongings including leash, food bowl, food and water.

SPECIAL NEEDS AND VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Certain individuals in the community may have special needs persons to help in a disaster, including the elderly, people with medical conditions, and people with certain disabilities (mobility, visually impaired, hearing impaired, developmental or cognitive disabilities). If you have a family member who is one of these individuals, there are special considerations to think about and plan for before a disaster occurs.

If the family member has medications or equipment that they are dependent on, plan to bring those items with you if an evacuation is necessary. Shelters will not have additional medication or medical equipment available. Documentation about insurance and medical conditions should also accompany the person.

Plan ahead for transportation needs for family members with special needs. Transportation for the general public in an emergency evacuation may not be suitable for their situation.

If the family member has special dietary needs, bring these special foods and supplements with you.

Many special needs populations are easily upset and stressed by sudden and frightening changes. Plans should be made to ensure that a caregiver or trusted family member is able to stay with them at all times during an evacuation.

IS IT A WATCH OR IS IT A WARNING?

A watch is intended to provide lead time for those who need to set their plans in motion. A watch means that hazardous weather is possible in and close to the watch area.

A warning means that weather conditions pose a threat to life or property; people in the path of the hazard need to take protective action.

These terms are used for Thunderstorms, Flashfloods and Winter Storms.

WINTER STORMS – WATCHES & WARNINGS

Winter Storm Watch – Conditions are favorable for hazardous winter weather conditions including heavy snow, blizzard conditions, significant accumulations of freezing rain or sleet, and dangerous wind chills. The watches are usually issued 12 to 36 hours in advance.

Winter Storm Warning – Hazardous winter weather conditions that pose a threat to life and/or property are occurring, imminent or likely. The term winter storm warning is used for a combination of two or more of the following winter weather events: heavy snow, freezing rain, sleet, and strong winds. The following event-specific warnings are issued for a single weather hazard: blizzard warning, heavy snow warning or ice storm warning.

Snow Advisory – Snowfall roughly half the amount required for a winter storm warning.

Blizzard Warning – Sustained winds or frequent gusts of 35 miles per hour or greater with considerable falling and/or blowing snow. Visibility will be reduced to 1/4 mile or less for a period of three hours or more.

Evacuation Advisory – An advisory is issued when there is reason to believe that the emergency will escalate and require mandatory evacuations. An advisory is meant to give residents as much time as possible to prepare transportation arrangements.

Voluntary Evacuation – Is used when an area is going to be impacted and residents are willing and able to leave before the situation gets worse. This is helpful for residents with medical issues, people with pets and those who will have difficulty making travel arrangements. Under this evacuation order you do not have to leave the area.

Mandatory Evacuation – You **MUST** leave the area **IMMEDIATELY**, your life is in danger. Under these circumstances the situation is severe and you may not have time to gather special belongings or paperwork, every minute you delay could increase your danger. Please do not take this order lightly; it is for your safety. Remember to follow any instruction you receive from a law enforcement or fire officer.

Plan at least two ways out of your neighborhood. Evacuate if asked to do so or if you feel threatened. Local Officials will determine the best route of travel as dictated by the emergency and conditions. Officials will notify residents through the use of media, telephone and if possible, by first responders. Keep an eye out for Officials and follow directions in an evacuation.

Primary Routes out of Grass Valley:

Highway 49 South

Highway 49 North

Highway 20 West

Highway 20 East.

IF YOU LEAVE YOUR HOME

- If you leave your home turn on a porch light and secure your residence.
- Drive slowly, first responders and emergency equipment might be on the roadway. If you must drive through smoke, turn on your headlights and stay as far to the right as possible.

SHELTER LOCATIONS

- Shelter locations will be determined based on the emergency.
- During an emergency you will be directed to the location of a shelter. Listen to the radio or television for the correct location. If conditions change and a new site is needed you will be directed upon arrival at the location.

YOUR EVACUATION PLANS:

A large rectangular area with a green border and 15 horizontal blue lines, intended for writing evacuation plans.

PHONE NUMBERS AND WEB SITES

Any life threatening emergency call 911

- Grass Valley Police Department
530-477-4600 www.gvpd.net
- Grass Valley Fire Department
530-274-4380 www.grassvalleyfire.com
- City of Nevada City Fire Department
www.nevadacityca.gov
- Nevada County Consolidated Fire Dist.
530-265-4431 www.nccfire.com
- Cal Fire Current Incidents
www.fire.ca.gov/current_incidents
- Nevada County Office of Emergency Services 530-265-1515
www.mynevadacounty.com/1182/Office-of-Emergency-Services
- National Weather Service
www.weather.gov/sto
- Cal Trans
www.dot.ca.gov
- Department of Homeland Security
www.ready.gov
- California Highway Patrol
530-477-4900
www.chp.ca.gov

