



What To Do When Trapped – Near Home

If you are about to be trapped by approaching flames near your home or while you are evacuating, find a building for shelter. **Avoid getting burned over in your vehicle!**

Step 1: Remain Calm

- An approaching wildfire will be extremely loud, create extreme heat and smoke, and will likely evoke fear and panic. However, the active flames will pass.

Step 2: Prepare Safe Zones

- **Choose the most well-constructed or modern building for shelter.** Shut all windows and doors.
- Put wet towels across window and door edges to prevent smoke and flames from entering the house.

Step 3: Protect Yourself

- Stay inside while the fire front passes. Stay low to keep cool and avoid smoke inhalation.
- Move to the end of the house farthest from the fire front. It is preferable to shelter in a part of the home that allows you to see the progress of the fire.
- Look out for embers landing inside the home and extinguish any spot fires.
- **After the fire has passed over the house, head outside to an area with no flames for safety.** This may be an area that just burned.

Step 4: Assess Hazards After the Fire Front Has Passed

- **Call 9-1-1 for help if you need medical assistance and cannot leave the area after the fire has passed.**
- Continue to wear personal protective clothing.
- Inspect the perimeter of the home and extinguish any spot fires. Test door surfaces with the back of your hand before opening.
- Be aware of trees, brush, or rocks which may be weakened or loosened by fire.
- **Stay clear of electrical wires on the ground – consider them to be energized.**

Learn more about preparing for evacuation by visiting <https://ucanr.edu/program/uc-anr-fire-network/prepare-evacuation>.