



## WHEN THE LIGHTS GO OUT

# A Guide to Preparing for Escalation During a Wildfire or Earthquake

[altadenafiresafe.org](http://altadenafiresafe.org)

## Our Mission

The **Altadena Fire Safe Council** is working to reduce wildfire risk across our community through GIS-informed planning, science-based integrated vegetation management and regenerative land stewardship. We will pursue Firewise USA® neighborhood recognition by educating our community about home hardening, defensible space design, soil restoration and native plant landscaping.



Charity On Top (EIN #81-1198370) is a California-registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit foundation and is the official fiscal sponsor for the Altadena Fire Safe Council.

### Equipment & Safety Disclaimer

The products featured on this site and pdf are provided for educational and informational purposes only. Altadena Fire Safe Council is not affiliated with or endorsed by any manufacturer listed unless explicitly stated. Product specifications, availability, and performance may change without notice. Users are responsible for reviewing manufacturer instructions, safety warnings, and regulatory requirements before purchase or use. Certain equipment — including generators, fuel-powered devices, respirators, and radio communication devices — may require training, proper ventilation, or licensing.

Some radios (e.g., Baofeng UV-5R) operate on licensed frequencies regulated by the FCC. Users are responsible for obtaining any required licenses and following all federal, state, and local regulations. Improper use can result in fines, interference with emergency communications, or other penalties.

Preparedness recommendations on this site and pdf are general in nature and are not a substitute for professional advice, official emergency guidance, or manufacturer instructions. In an emergency, always follow directions from local authorities.

For more information on FCC regulations for amateur radio, visit: **FCC – Amateur Radio Service ([fcc.gov/licensing](https://www.fcc.gov/licensing))**

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# Wildfire and Earthquake Escalation Checklist

Emergencies can escalate quickly due to wind-driven fire behavior, canyon topography, aging infrastructure, and limited evacuation routes. This checklist helps households transition from “monitoring” to “ready to act” in minutes — not hours.

| STAGE 1: Heightened Awareness                                                                                 | STAGE 2: Ready to Move                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Fire reported nearby, Red Flag Warning, or 4.5+ earthquake felt.                                              | Smoke visible, fire within several miles, official evacuation warning, or significant structural earthquake damage reported.                                                                                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Top off vehicle gas tanks immediately                                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Place go-bags in vehicles                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Charge phones, power banks, laptops                                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Load important documents, photos, hard drives                                                                                                                                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bring pets indoors and prep carriers                                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Pack medications and medical devices                                                                                                                                                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Check emergency alerts are enabled on phones                                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Wear sturdy shoes and long sleeves                                                                                                                                                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Review evacuation routes                                                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Close and seal all windows and interior doors                                                                                                                                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Confirm out-of-area contact person                                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Shut off gas                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Check on elderly or mobility-limited neighbors                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Turn off propane tanks                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Secure outdoor items                                                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Keep garage door closed but unlocked                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>In Altadena</b> Santa Ana winds can shift fire direction rapidly downhill toward neighborhoods at night.   | <input type="checkbox"/> Fill bathtubs for emergency water                                                                                                                                                              |
|                                                                                                               | Foothill streets can bottleneck quickly. Leaving early reduces gridlock.                                                                                                                                                |
| STAGE 3: Immediate Evacuation                                                                                 | 72-Hour Self-Sufficiency Minimum                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| When evacuation orders are issued by authorities.                                                             | Every household should maintain:                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leave immediately — do not wait                                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 gallon water per person per day for 3-7 days                                                                                                                                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Take go-bags and pets                                                                | <input type="checkbox"/> N95 masks (for smoke or debris)                                                                                                                                                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Follow official routes                                                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Battery-powered radio                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Text contacts that you’re evacuating                                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlights (not candles)                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Check in with your out-of-area contact                                               | <input type="checkbox"/> First aid kit                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Check in with your friends and family                                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Pet food and carriers                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Monitor updates from:</b><br>LA County Office of Emergency Management,<br>CAL FIRE, Alert California, USGS | Foothill communities face rapid-fire spread potential and infrastructure strain after earthquakes. The safest strategy is early action.<br><b>If you are thinking about leaving, that is usually your signal to go.</b> |