

CDF NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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RELEASE
DATE: August 11, 2004

Fire Officials Advise: Everyone Should Have an Emergency Evacuation Plan

Sacramento- A deputy pounds on the door and tells the people inside that they have two minutes to evacuate, a wildfire is coming! In the past few days, hundreds of Californians had that experience. It is both frightening and confusing as people desperately ask themselves what should they do, what should they take, and where should they go. "It's always frightening, but it doesn't have to be confusing. Everyone should have an emergency evacuation plan and everyone in the family should know what to do," said Jim Wright, Chief of Fire Protection, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF).

An emergency evacuation plan can be as simple as one piece of notebook paper with the following information:

- 1) Name, address and phone number at the top of the page including cell phone numbers of everyone in the family. (These are the numbers we all forget when we're upset).
- 2) A prioritized list of what you would take if you only had two minutes such as; your pets, family photo album, medication, important family documents. Also, make a note of where those things are.
- 3) At the end of the plan, note where everyone will meet. And have a second and third choice in case those locations are also affected by the incident.

"It's not just wildfire," added Chief Wright. "You could have a train derail upwind from your house, a dam break, a major storm approaching. Any of which could cause us to call for an evacuation. Having a plan buys a lot of peace of mind." For more information about emergency evacuation planning for you and your family:

http://www.fire.ca.gov/php/fire_er_content/downloads/Evacuation.pdf and your pets and livestock.

http://www.fire.ca.gov/php/fire_er_content/downloads/Animalevacuation.pdf

Visit the CDF website at www.fire.ca.gov for more fire safety information.

