

Get Prepared for a Wildfire

Heartland Fire & Rescue
Helix Water District

Create your own personal disaster plan

- The County of San Diego Office of Emergency Services created a *Personal Disaster Plan* to help residents and families prepare for an evacuation or shelter-in-place order. [The plan is available in 12 languages.](#)
- They developed a second plan for people who may need assistance – seniors and people with disabilities or other needs. [This plan is also available in 12 languages.](#)
- Have more than one evacuation route. Write down the street names or make maps.
- Get financially prepared. If the power is out during a wildfire, ATMs will not work. And you want to have your insurance policies up to date and the key information available when you need it. Learn more at [ready.gov/financial-preparedness](https://www.ready.gov/financial-preparedness).
- Don't forget to plan for your pets.

Help your neighbors prepare

- Get to know each other.
- Develop a neighborhood contact list.
- Hold meetings to share information and plan.
- Hold evacuation drills.
- Start a buddy system with neighbors and agree to check on each other's animals if someone is not home during an emergency. Consider placing an authorization in your veterinarian's file for your neighbor to request emergency veterinary treatment for your animal(s) in your absence.

Register your cell phones for emergency alerts

- *AlertSanDiego* messages are received by landline phones in the San Diego region. You need to register your cell phone to receive the same messages -- by voice, text and email. Register your cell phone at [alertsandiego.org/en-us/preparedness/alertsandiego.html](https://www.alertsandiego.org/en-us/preparedness/alertsandiego.html).
- *Accessible AlertSanDiego* sends messages to computers, cell phones, tablets and the devices used by low vision and blind people. The messages are shown in American Sign Language with English voice and text. Register at <https://www.alertsandiego.org/en-us/preparedness/alertsandiego.html>.

(See back)

Media Contact
Name
Agency
Cel 000-000-0000
Email @ address

Make a kit for evacuating or sheltering in place

- Your kit should have sufficient supplies to sustain you, your family and pets for a minimum of 72 hours. It should include basic supplies like water, food, medications and cash, plus sanitation, cooking, safety and pet supplies, and a car survival kit. Learn more at <https://www.alertsandiego.org/en-us/preparedness/BuildaKit.html>
- The County of San Diego recommends having at least three full kits: one at home, another at work and a third in your vehicle.
- Include a two-week supply of prescriptions and other medications.
- Make a go-kit for each pet and include:
 - What you need to keep your pet secure: leash, harness or pet carrier, muzzle if your dog is reactive, stake and tie-out.
 - What your pet needs to survive: a week's supply of water and pet food, can opener if needed and water and food bowls.
 - What an injured pet needs: first aid kit for cleaning and bandaging wounds; veterinary records; a week's supply of their medications; a list of phone numbers for your vet and local animal agencies.
 - What you need to find your pet if they get lost: a collar with their license tag and identity tag with your phone number and address and recent photos of your pet.

Stay informed

- The National Weather Service issues a Red Flag Warning when high winds, low humidity and dry conditions are occurring or expected within the next 24 hours. Together, these conditions increase the risk of wildfire. A Red Flag Warning also means that SDG&E may conduct a Public Safety Power Shutoff.
- Residents and business owners need to be prepared for both possibilities – a power shutoff and a wildfire – when a Red Flag Warning is issued.
- Download applications to your smartphone to help you in an emergency.
 - The county recommends the [Genasys Protect](#) app, which provides information from local fire, police and cities. Download at the App Store or Google Play.
 - *Watch Duty* is a popular app for monitoring wildfires in San Diego County and California. Download at the App Store or Google Play.
 - The *SD Emergency Mobile* app helps you and the people you care about plan how you will contact one another and get back together during an emergency. You can create an emergency plan with checklists and supply lists, receive emergency updates and use the interactive map. Download at the App Store or Google Play.

(See next page)

Evacuate early – it's key to your safety

- We strongly encourage residents to download the [Genasys Protect](#) app to receive evacuation notifications, monitor evacuation warnings and orders, and stay informed regarding other critical disaster information.
 - Residents should know multiple egress routes from their neighborhood.
 - Don't hesitate, evacuate! Evacuations can take more time than you might think.
 - When you receive an evacuation warning, that's the time to start getting ready.
 - When you get the order to evacuate, go as soon as you can, the sooner the better. Know the difference between an evacuation warning and an evacuation order.
-