

EVACUATION READINESS

Being prepared for an evacuation can save time, reduce stress, and help protect you, your loved ones and your pets when conditions change quickly. In Central Oregon, wildfires and other emergencies can escalate with little warning, so having a plan, staying informed and keeping essential items ready can make it easier to leave safely and sooner if needed. Preparing also helps neighbors support one another and allows first responders to focus on immediate life safety.

What to do BEFORE an emergency evacuation.

The list below will help you prepare for an evacuation before an incident occurs.

- ☐ Opt-in to receive emergency alerts from Deschutes Alerts (visit deschutesalerts.org).
- ☐ Enable Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) on your cell phone.
- ☐ Have an emergency plan for your household with medical and safety information.
- ☐ Build a go-kit for your household, including animals.
- ☐ Designate an out-of-area contact person and safe meeting place for your household.
- ☐ Plan possible routes to leave your home – north, south, east, and west. If you do not drive, make other arrangements for transportation in advance with family/friends/neighbors.
- ☐ Plan for your emergency shelter needs. Where will you go? Consider what works best for your family.
- ☐ Plan with your neighbors. Exchange information. Ask for help if you think you will need it and offer help if you can give it. Consider kids, pets and if you are away from home.

What to do DURING a Level 1 or 2 evacuation.

The list below should be used only if time allows. Anyone in Level 3, “Go Now”, should leave immediately, do not wait.

- ☐ Stay informed. Check city, county and emergency service websites and social media. Check local news, TV and radio for updates.
- ☐ Keep your cell phone charged.
- ☐ Have your emergency plan and go-kit ready. Stage it near an exit in your home.
- ☐ Inform others (family/friends) of your plans. Remember your safe meeting place and remind your household of the location. Connect with your out-of-area contact person.
- ☐ Gather any remaining items for you and your household’s health and well-being.
- ☐ Leave early if you are older or have children, disabilities or limited access to transportation.



- ☐ Locate your pets and keep them with you. Consider evacuating early.
- ☐ Use TripCheck.com or call 511 for road closure information. Visit [Deschutes.org/emergency](https://deschutes.org/emergency).
- ☐ If you plan to use the emergency shelter. Call the American Red Cross at 1-800-733-2767 or visit [Deschutes.org/emergency](https://deschutes.org/emergency) to find the shelter location.
- ☐ Check with your neighbors if you have time and can do so safely.
- ☐ Don't wait to evacuate if you need extra time to leave or if you feel unsafe. Conditions can change rapidly. Make the best decision for your safety.

What to do WHILE evacuating.

- ☐ Remain as calm as possible. Take slow, deep breaths. This will help you think clearly and make good decisions. If you have children or pets, they will benefit from your calm behavior during this stressful time.
- ☐ Relocate to a safe place outside of the affected area. Drive carefully. Turn on your headlights. Follow traffic safety warnings and instructions from local authorities.
- ☐ Use only one vehicle to evacuate to keep your household from being separated.
- ☐ Wear gloves, eye protection, and face coverings or N95 masks that protect against fine smoke particles, long sleeves, long pants, sturdy shoes and a hat to keep embers out of your hair.

After you evacuate.

- ☐ Do not return to the area until public safety officials announce the area is safe.
- ☐ Seek medical help if you are injured.
- ☐ Inform your designated contact that you are safe.
- ☐ Continue to check for updates through local city, county and emergency service websites, social media, local news and radio.

What to pack in a “go-kit”.

- ☐ Health/Medical: Prescription medications, medical devices, eyeglasses, and first-aid kit.
- ☐ Nutrition/Hydration: food and water (1 gallon per person per day).
- ☐ Safety/Hygiene: Sanitation and personal hygiene items (soap, toilet paper, sanitizer)
- ☐ Communication: Phones, tablets, laptops, charging cords, hard drives or backup drives, maps, AM/FM radio, flashlight and extra batteries or power bank.



- ☐ Documentation: Photo identification, driver's license, birth certificate, social security card, passport, visa, insurance policy, mortgage deed or rental agreement, medical records, banking or financial records, home inventory, etc.
- ☐ Personal: debit and credit cards, cash, clothing, family photos and small irreplaceable items.
- ☐ Animals: Extra water, food, leashes, carriers, medication, identification, bedding, and vaccination/medical records. Consider large animal transport needs and relocation.
- ☐ Visit Ready.gov for more information about being prepared for an emergency, including a full list of emergency supplies.

PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR EVACUATION

What to do inside your home, if time allows.

- ☐ Shut all windows and doors, including interior doors to each room.
- ☐ Close fireplace dampers and pet doors. Turn off any pilot lights.
- ☐ Remove flammable window coverings such as shades, curtains, shutters or blinds.
- ☐ Move flammable furniture to the center of a room, away from windows and doors.
- ☐ Leave interior lights on to make your home visible to firefighters in smoke or darkness.
- ☐ Keep doors and windows shut. Turn off the air conditioning to reduce airflow through the house.
- ☐ Leave your contact information on your dining table.
- ☐ Take a video or pictures of the inside and outside of your home for insurance purposes.

What to do outside your home, if time allows.

- ☐ Keep your vehicle ready. Load your emergency supplies into the vehicle and make sure the gas tank is full. Always carry car keys. Back your vehicle into your parking space or garage.
- ☐ Gather flammable and combustible items and bring them into the garage. This includes patio furniture, children's toys, doormats, propane tanks (turn them off), gas cans, etc.
- ☐ Shut off your natural gas, if you know how. Utility companies can shut down systems when fire threatens an area. If your natural gas is shut off during a wildfire, do not turn it back on by yourself. Call your natural gas provider to restore your service.
- ☐ Leave exterior lights on to make your home visible to firefighters in smoke or darkness.
- ☐ Place a ladder at the corner of the house; leave gates propped open; connect garden hoses to outside water valves; and fill water buckets and place them around the house.



- ☐ Turn off sprinklers, do not leave water running, as that can affect critical water pressure.
- ☐ Seal your attic and ground vents. Use plywood, duct tape, aluminum foil or commercial seals.
- ☐ Monitor your property and the fire situation. If you feel threatened, leave right away. Do not wait for an evacuation notice.

The best time to prepare is before an emergency happens. Taking small steps now like making a plan, building a go kit and knowing where to get reliable information can make a big difference when every minute counts. If an evacuation becomes necessary, act early, stay informed and put your safety first.



Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities & Language Assistance Services

You can obtain this information in alternate formats such as Braille, electronic format, etc. Free language assistance services are also available. Please email accessibility@bendoregon.gov or call 541-693-2198. Relay Users Dial 7-1-1. All requests are subject to vendor processing times and should be submitted 48-72 hours in advance of events.

Servicios de asistencia lingüística e información sobre alojamiento para personas con discapacidad

Puede obtener esta información en formatos alternativos como Braille, formato electrónico, etc. También disponemos de servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Póngase en contacto en correo electrónico accessibility@bendoregon.gov o número de teléfono 541-693-2198. Los usuarios del servicio de retransmisión deben marcar el 7-1-1. Por favor, envíe sus solicitudes con 48-72 horas de antelación al evento; todas las solicitudes están sujetas a los tiempos de procesamiento del proveedor.