



AFTER A WILDFIRE

Getting back:

- **Use a copy of the evacuation route.** It is a useful reference as you return.
- **Avoid shortcuts.** Alternate routes may be unsafe and inaccessible; sightseeing may prove dangerous.
- **Traffic on re-entry routes may move slowly.** Waiting may be best if you have small children, elderly, or people with special needs.
- **Bring food, water, medicine, toiletry items, and maps.**

Use caution:

- **Snags, rootholds, and falling trees:** Tall tree snags weakened by the fire pose a risk of falling and causing greater damage and possible injury. Watch for rootholds, where trees once stood, and are now big holes. These may still be burning.
- **Hotspots:** Watch for spots where fire may start up again. Contact your local fire department or other firefighters in the area to help put these out.
- **Watch for wildlife, livestock, and pets.** They may be seeking safety and shelter as well.
- **Watch for downed power lines.** Give them lots of room and avoid driving over them.

If your home has fire damage:

- **Avoid entering the site.** Fires may be hidden and smoldering within. Roofs and floors may collapse.
- **Avoid turning on utilities yourself.** The fire department or utility company will ensure water, electricity, and natural gas are either safe to use, or disconnected before they leave.
- **Avoid consuming exposed food, beverages, and medicine.**

Recovery:

- **Save all receipts** to show your insurance company what you spent related to fire loss and for verifying losses claimed on income tax.
- **Take photos.** Document all damage before repairs, keeping receipts for insurance purposes. Keep damaged goods until after an inventory of loss.
- **Discuss your plans** with your insurance company before acting. There may be guidelines to follow.

If the area is safe, try to locate:

- Drivers license/passport
- Social Security card
- Eyeglasses, hearing aids, prosthetic devices
- Valuables like credit cards, cash, and jewelry
- Insurance information
- Medication information

People to notify if you've been displaced by fire:

- Insurance agent/company
- Mortgage company
- Fire and police departments
- Utility companies
- Family and friends
- Employer
- Schools
- Post office/delivery services