



# 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 along 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.**

## Caution best:

- **Snags, rotholds and falling trees:** Tall trees snags, weakened by the fire pose a dangerous risk of falling and causing greater damage and possible injuries. Watch for rotholds, where trees once stood, and are now big holes. Any of these may still be burning.
- **Hotspots:** Watch for spots where fire may startup 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. This may include snakes.
- **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 utilities will make sure water, electricity and natural gas are either safe to use or disconnected before they leave the site.
- **Avoid consuming food, beverages, and medicine exposed.**

## Recovery:

- **Save all receipts.** These are important to show your insurance company what you spent related to your 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 agent/company before acting.** There may be guidelines you need to follow.

## If the area is safe, try to locate:

- Drivers license/Social Security cards
- Eyeglasses, hearing aids, prosthetic devices
- Valuables including credit cards, bank books, cash, 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 and delivery services