

COURTYARD COMMUNITY



Wildfire Evacuation Plan



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WHY

“People living in the wildland-urban interface sometimes expect that, no matter how big a wildfire might be, firefighters will be there and able to protect their individual homes. However, fire behavior can get too intense for people to be in the area, and a lack of proper mitigation can increase the danger and/or difficulty of protecting a house. Beyond that, sometimes there’s simply not enough suppression equipment or personnel available for the number of houses exposed at once.

“An evacuation is difficult to put into relatable terms. Unless you’ve had the misfortune of participating in one, we tend to view it through the lens of Hollywood, secondhand stories, or via the news. Regardless, it’s an emotional, frightening, frantic experience loaded with drama. And in real life, evacuations tend to look less like a scene from “The Fast and Furious” and more just like bumper-to-bumper traffic jams in gridlock.

“Preparing means the threat is a real possibility, and who wants to live their life in fear? But consider this perspective: preparing is actually taking control of the fear, not letting it control you. Because if you can’t predict a natural disaster, per se, you can at least do everything within your power to prepare for it. And that should give you some measure of comfort.”

(James Duff, AFD Wildfire Division)

PURPOSE

Each year, wildland fires consume hundreds of homes in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) – a high-risk wildfire area containing natural fuels where houses are built. ***Studies show as many as 80 percent of the homes lost to wildland fires could have been saved if their owners had followed simple fire-safe practices.*** In addition, wildland fire related deaths occur because people wait too long to leave their homes.

Our fire department takes every precaution to help protect you and your property from wildland fire. However, in a major wildland fire event, there simply may not be enough fire resources or firefighters to defend every home.

Successfully preparing for a wildland fire enables us to take personal responsibility to protect ourselves, our family, and our property. In this plan, we provide the information and guidance you need to prepare for a wildland fire threat; to have situational awareness when a fire starts; and to act early as directed by local officials.

COURTYARD WILDFIRE EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Points of Contact:

- Local:** Konavis Smith - President, Courtyard HOA
Charles Crooks – Vice President, Courtyard HOA
Alice English – Courtyard HOA Goodwin Manager
Richard Stelzner – Fire Safety Committee Chairman
Susanne Doell – Wolf Court HOA
Thomas Hoy – Villas HOA
Cheryl Solt – Centre Court HOA
Terry Edwards – Travis County Courtyard (Back Court HOA)
- Austin:** Austin Fire Department Wildfire Division – Justice Jones
- State:** Texas A&M Forest Service - Incident Commander – TBD

This illustrates lines of communication for information on the community and preparations.

Contact Information

Refer to the Courtyard website for contact numbers on the above at www.courtyardhoa.org.

Click on the Directory, and provide the **Username:** _____ & **Password:** _____.

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AFD WFD	Austin Fire Department Wildfire Division
FIREWISE	Firewise Alliance USA
FSC	Fire Safety Committee
HIZ	Home Ignition Zone
NFPA	National Fire Protection Association
RNS	Regional Notification System
RSG!	The Ready, Set, Go!
STEAR	State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry
TFS	Texas A&M Forest Service
TRA	Temporary Refuge Area
WUI	Wildland-Urban Interface

COURTYARD COMMUNITY WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

The Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS), in collaboration with the AFD Wildfire Division and the Courtyard Fire Safety Committee (FSC) assessed the Courtyard wildfire risk, following standard guidelines for wildfire community risk assessments as outlined by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

Our **Firewise** program, fully accredited nationally each year since 2013, operates on the basis of the Austin Fire Department Wildfire Division wildfire risk assessment for all of Courtyard: **HIGH**. *The Courtyard community is surrounded on three sides by wildland areas that contain a mixture of wildland fuel types including grasses, shrubs, Juniper (“Cedar”) and hardwood trees interwoven in many areas by vines and low-growing shrubs. Moderately heavy wildland areas lie to the south, southwest and east of the community. The fire fuel in these wildland areas is capable of supporting fire that can travel laterally and vertically into the Courtyard community.*

*Fire that starts in the adjacent wildland areas to the north, west and south would be threatening to the homes that border these wildlands. The risk to homes would be through direct fire and most commonly by **ember storms** driven by the fires. Homes located in the areas of the community that do not border the wildland areas would also be vulnerable to ember storms and radiant heat from burning wildland fuels and any homes that become involved.*

Southerly and Southwest winds would drive embers into the community, creating an opportunity for fire to move from the wildland areas into the Courtyard vegetated residential properties.

The Fire Safety Committee, through Firewise, provides wildfire home and resident protection information for new arrivals, to residents requesting individual home risk evaluations, to the community regularly via the Courtyard HOA website.

The Fire Safety Committee creates a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) reviewed by the Board of Directors and the Austin Fire Department Wildfire Division (AFD WFD) as part of the Firewise Alliance membership responsibilities. The CWPP details the program to address fuel mitigation, community education and resident outreach.

WILDFIRE RISKS AND TFS RECOMMENDATIONS

Key Risks

During the assessment, TFS identified key risks that contribute to Courtyard wildland fire vulnerability.

1. Extensive dead and down heavy fuels materials in the areas beyond the perimeter of the community
2. Landscaping plants that are too close to the homes that could create home ignition
3. Home soffit and gable vents that could allow ember intrusion into attics during a wildland fire

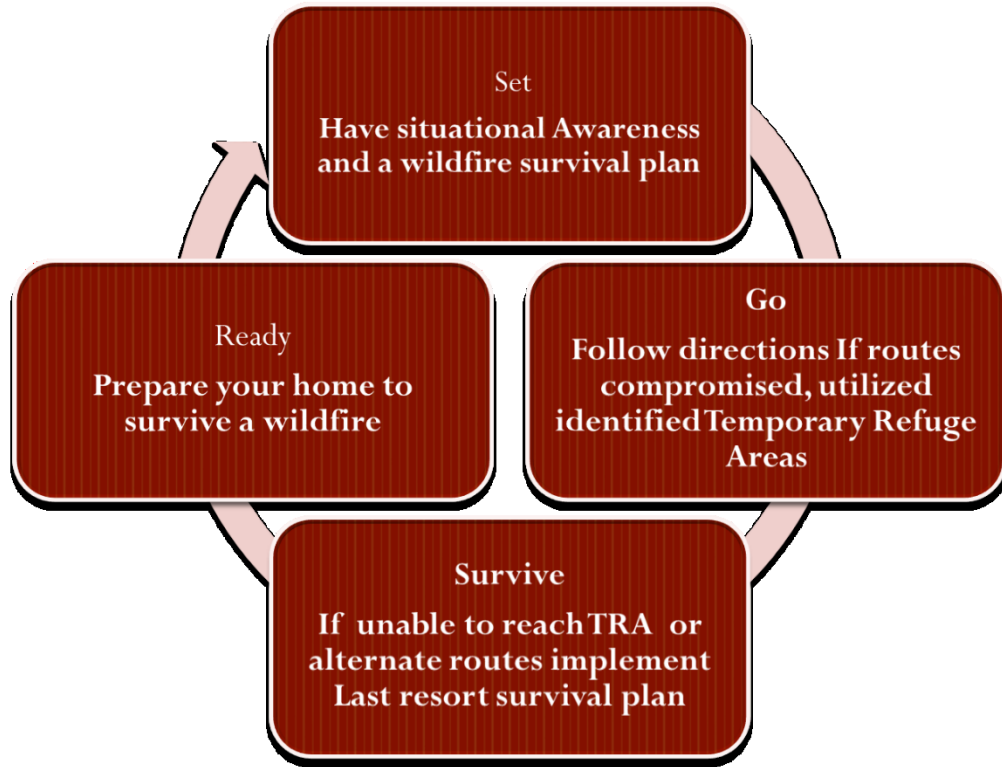
TFS Recommendations

1. All homes in the community should have a **Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) evaluation** to identify ways to harden the homes against ember intrusions.
2. The community should investigate a **fuels management project** to reduce fuel loading in the areas adjacent to The Courtyard property.
3. Residents should **create defensible space** around their homes by pruning landscape plants; and should evaluate the need to remove or relocate plantings to reduce ignition risk to homes. Community might consider doing a “30-foot defensible space” weekend work event.
4. The community should take steps to ensure that the common areas and roadways are **Firewise** by managing vegetation and reducing potential fuel sources. These steps should include trimming limbs and understory vegetation (“ladder fuels”) to reduce the potential for fire to carry from the ground to the crowns of the trees, review possible escape routes for the presence of fuels that would create hazardous travel conditions in the event of an evacuation.
5. Residents should register with **Warn Central Texas** <http://warncentraltexas.org/> to stay informed about changing wildland fire conditions and emergency information. WarnCentralTexas.org is an automated emergency notification tool which enables authorized public safety personnel in the CAPCOG region to notify citizens only in an emergency situation where property or human life is in jeopardy.
6. A community **evacuation plan** should be developed to facilitate the safe relocation of residents in the event of wildfire threatening their neighborhoods. Particular attention should be paid to moving those residents living on cul-de-sacs away from wildfire threat.

Wildfire Risk Mitigation and FIREWISE Alliance

The FIREWISE Communities/USA program was adopted by the Courtyard Community to help maximize protection for our residents from wildland fire. The FSC is responding to the TFS risk assessment findings and recommendations. Ongoing action addresses recommendations 1 - 6. This plan addresses recommendation 6, developing a wildfire evacuation plan.

AUSTIN FIRE DEPARTMENT EVACUTION MODEL



SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

Displayed at all AFD stations





1. Ready - Be ready.

Take personal responsibility and prepare long before the threat of a wildland fire so your home is ready in case of a fire. Create defensible space by clearing brush away from your home. Use fire-resistant landscaping and harden your home with fire-safe construction measures.

Create your **Personal Wildland Fire Action Plan**. (See pages 9 - 11 and 13 – 16).

Be registered with **Warn Central Texas** <http://warncentraltexas.org/>. Registering with Warn Central Texas allows emergency personnel in our local area to directly contact us by phone, text or email during a wildfire alert or evacuation, or other disaster or public safety event. Using Warn Central Texas, emergency response teams can warn residents about dangerous conditions and situations as events unfold. They can quickly give specific directions that affect our neighborhood such as evacuation orders and directions.

2. Set - Situational awareness.



Pack your emergency items. (See pages 13 - 16.) Know how to receive and stay aware of the latest news and information on the fire from local media, your local fire department and public safety.

3. Go - Act early!

Follow your *Personal Wildland Fire Action Plan*. Doing so will not only support your safety, but will allow firefighters to best maneuver resources to combat the fire. In order to be prepared before a wildfire strikes, this action plan communicates where to go, how to get there, and what to take.

Where to Go - The Temporary Refuge Area (TRA): Courtyard Tennis and Swim Club tennis courts unless otherwise directed (✘ on page 20 map). Do not attempt evacuating via highways 360 or 2222. This would impede fire responders and could potentially be more dangerous than taking refuge in the community TRA.

How to Get There - Primarily via side streets to Courtyard Drive. Walk rather than drive, if you are able. Parking is limited, and we wish to avoid congestion that might impede firefighters and other emergency responders.

What to Take - Your emergency supply kit. See pages 13-16 for recommendations.

My Personal Wildland Fire ACTION PLAN

Write up your Wildland Fire Action Plan and post it in a location where every member of your family can see it. Rehearse it with your family.

During high-fire-danger days in your area, monitor your local media for information and be ready to implement your plan.

Hot, dry, and windy conditions create the perfect environment for a wildland fire.

Ready – Get Ready

- Create a **Family Disaster Plan** that includes meeting locations and communication plans and rehearse it regularly. Include the evacuation of large animals such as horses in your plan.
- Have fire extinguishers on hand and teach your family how to use them.
- Ensure that your family knows where your gas, electric, and water main shut-off controls are and how to use them.
- Plan and practice several different evacuation routes.
- Designate an emergency meeting location outside the fire hazard area.
- Assemble an emergency supply kit as recommended by the American Red Cross. Keep an extra kit in your vehicle.
- Appoint an out-of-area friend or relative as a point of contact so you can communicate with family members.
- Maintain a list of emergency contact numbers in your emergency supply kit.
- Have a portable radio or scanner so you can stay updated on the fire and weather emergency announcements.



Set – Be Prepared

- Monitor fire weather** conditions and fire status. See www.inciweb.nwcg.gov. Stay tuned to your TV or local radio stations for updates.
- Evacuate** as soon as you are 'set!'
- Alert family** and neighbors.
- Dress in appropriate clothing (i.e., clothing made from natural fibers, such as cotton, and work boots). Have goggles and a dry bandana or particle mask handy.
- Ensure that you have your **emergency supply kit** on hand that includes all necessary items, such as a battery powered radio, spare batteries, emergency contact numbers, and a lot of drinking water.
- Remain close to your house, drink plenty of water, and ensure your family and pets are accounted for until you are ready to leave.
- Back your car into the driveway to facilitate a quick departure. Shut doors and roll up windows.
- Have a ladder available.
- Patrol your property and extinguish all small fires until you leave.
- Cover attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or commercial seals if time permits.

INSIDE CHECKLIST, IF TIME ALLOWS

- Close all windows and doors, leaving them unlocked.
- Remove all shades and curtains from windows.
- Move furniture to the center of the room, away from windows and doors.
- Turn off pilot lights and air conditioning.
- Leave your lights on so firefighters can see your house under smoky conditions.

OUTSIDE CHECKLIST, IF TIME ALLOWS

- Bring combustible items from the exterior of the house inside (e.g., patio furniture, children's toys, door mats, etc.) If you have a pool, place combustible items in the water.
- Turn off propane tanks and other gas at the meter.
- Don't leave sprinklers on or water running. They can effect critical water pressure.
- Leave exterior lights on.

IF YOU ARE TRAPPED: SURVIVAL TIPS

- Stay in your home until the fire passes. Shelter away from outside walls.
- Bring garden hoses inside house so embers and flames do not destroy them.
- Look for spot fires and extinguish if found inside house.
- Wear long sleeves and long pants made of natural fibers such as cotton.
- Stay hydrated.
- Ensure you can exit the home if it catches fire (remember if it's hot inside the house, it is four to five times hotter outside).
- Fill sinks and tubs for an emergency water supply.
- Place wet towels under doors to keep smoke and embers out.
- After the fire has passed, check your roof and extinguish any fires, sparks or embers. Check the attic as well.
- If there are fires that you cannot extinguish, call 9-1-1.

Go! – Act Early

By leaving early, you give your family the best chance of surviving a wildland fire. You also help firefighters by keeping roads clear of congestion, enabling them to move more freely and do their job in a safer environment.

WHEN TO LEAVE

Do not wait to be advised to leave if there is a possible threat to your home or evacuation route. Leave early enough to avoid being caught in fire, smoke, or road congestion. If you are advised to leave by local authorities, do not hesitate!

WHERE TO GO

Leave to a predetermined location (it should be a low-risk area, such as a well-prepared neighbor or relative's house, a Red Cross shelter or evacuation center, motel, etc.)

HOW TO GET THERE

Have several travel routes in case one route is blocked by the fire or by emergency vehicles. Choose the safest route away from the fire.

WHAT TO TAKE

Take your emergency supply kit containing your family and pet's necessary items.

EMERGENCY SUPPLIES LIST

The American Red Cross recommends every family have an emergency supply kit assembled long before a wildland fire or other emergency occurs. Use the checklist below to help assemble yours. For more information on emergency supplies visit www.redcross.org/get-help.

- Three-day supply of water (one gallon per person per day) and non-perishable food for family (3 day supply).
- First aid kit and sanitation supplies.
- Flashlight, battery-powered radio, and extra batteries.
- An extra set of car keys, credit cards, cash or traveler's checks.
- Extra eyeglasses, contact lenses, prescriptions and medications.
- Important family documents and contact numbers including insurance documents.
- Map marked with evacuation routes.
- Easily carried valuables and irreplaceable items.
- Personal electronic devices and chargers.
- Note: Keep a pair of old shoes and a flashlight handy in case of a sudden evacuation at night.



Are You Ready?

Emergency Contacts

Most families are not together during the day. Parents are at work, children may be at school or working afternoon jobs. You may be trapped at the office or traveling outside of Texas when disaster strikes. Make sure you and your family members know where and how to get in touch with each other. You may also want to inquire about emergency plans at places where your family spends time: work, day care, school, place of worship etc...

Every family should have two emergency contact persons, one local and one from out-of-town. Your local contact will be your family's central communications point during a disaster, helping you locate family members, reporting on your situation and providing information about recovery efforts and available help. Family members should call this person and tell them where they are. After a disaster, it may be easier to make a long-distance phone call than to call across town, so an out-of-town contact may be in a better position to communicate among separated family members.

For each contact person, you will need to know their:

1. First and last names,
2. Cell phone and home telephone number,
3. E-mail address and any additional means of contact like social media accounts.

Be sure every member of your family knows the phone numbers of the emergency contacts. Post the numbers by each home phone and make wallet cards for each family member. Remember that cell phones should not be counted on as a reliable source of communication during a disaster. Cell towers may be disabled or cell phone services overwhelmed and of little use. Decide on a neighborhood meeting place and an out-of-town location where your family will meet after a disaster. Select locations that are familiar to your family and places that will not be difficult for them to reach. Pick an outside meeting place, far enough away to be safe. A good meeting place might be a tree, telephone pole, mailbox, or neighbor's home.

Emergency Wallet Cards

Creating an emergency card and placing it in your wallet, purse or child's backpack will ensure that everyone has the contact and meeting place information with them. List your emergency contacts and meeting places on an index card, give one to each family member and instruct everyone to keep the card with them at all times.

Family Meeting Places and Evacuation Routes

Pick places where your family will meet if you can't return home after an emergency. Choose two locations: One outside of the immediate area and another place near your home. Learn local evacuation routes and alternate escape routes if major roadways are closed or impassable. Wildfires are a serious threat in Central Texas so know and practice two fire escape routes from your house.

Get to Know Your Neighbors

It's important to know your neighbors in the event of an emergency or disaster situation. Get to know them by joining your neighborhood association, host a National Night Out event in your neighborhood (first Tuesday in October annually), or simply walk door to door and meet them. Make sure a trusted neighbor or friend has a spare key to your home, and knows where to find spare keys for your cars, recreational vehicles and safe deposit box. Let your neighbors know about your emergency plan and encourage them to create one for their family too.

Make a Plan!

You might have only a few minutes notice to take what you can and make your way to a safe location. Each family member's kit should be in portable container such as backpack or duffle bag near an exit in your home.

- *Water and portable purifier *Non-perishable food that needs no cooking
- *Multi-purpose tool & signaling mirror *First-aid kit (see below for contents)
- *Flashlight with extra batteries *Battery-powered or crank radio with extra batteries
- *Prescription and backup medications *Document Bag (see below for contents)
- *Extra clothes, sturdy shoes *Nose and mouth protection masks (N-95 rating)
- *Whistle, and compass *Plastic sheeting and duct tape
- *3 sources of fire: matches, lighter, fire starter *Hand sanitizer, wipes, personal hygiene supplies
- *Sunscreen, insect repellent, rain gear *Baby items (formula, bottles, baby food)

First Aid Kit Contents

- 2 absorbent compress dressings (5 x 9 inches)
- 25 adhesive bandages (assorted sizes)
- 1 adhesive cloth tape (10 yards x 1 inch)
- 5 antibiotic ointment packets (approximately 1 gram)
- 2 packets of aspirin (81 mg each)
- 1 instant cold compress
- 2 pair of non-latex gloves (size: large)
- 2 hydrocortisone ointment packets (approximately 1)
- Oral thermometer, scissors, tweezers
- 1 roller bandage (3 inches wide)
- 1 roller bandage (4 inches wide)
- 5 sterile gauze pads (3 x 3 inches)
- 5 sterile gauze pads (4 x 4 inches)
- 2 triangular bandages, cotton balls

Document Bag Essentials for your BOB

- At least \$200 cash, current picture I.D.s, important family documents
- Insurance, medical cards, bank account info
- Social Security cards and birth records
- List of medications with dosages and doctors' phone numbers

Evacuating by Car

In emergencies in which you can evacuate by car, take your grab-and-go kits AND essentials kits and all additional supplies in your car. These items include:

Reading and sun glasses; Phone chargers: car adapter, wall outlet, extra cell phone battery

Books, games, toys, deck of cards Road maps

Extra Batteries: C, AA, AAA

Clothes, bathing suit

Soaps, personal hygiene supplies, baby items Blankets and pillows

Bleach, toilet paper, paper towels, garbage bags Fix-A-Flat, tools, engine oil

Dental care, hearing and vision products Additional food and water

Plastic plates, cups, utensils

Matches, lighter, fire starter (3 sources) Tent, stakes, tarp

Call your family emergency contact Identify gas stations and restaurants on your route

Before you leave your home:

Fill your gas tank, check your spare tire Charge your mobile phone
Take cash, checkbook and credit cards Get a map of your route

Notes and Other Considerations

- An AM/FM Weatherband radio that can be powered by batteries AND plugged into an electrical outlet is your best choice for an emergency. However, any battery-powered radio will do.
- Cordless phones won't work during a power outage. A corded phone can be used during a power outage, since it doesn't plug in to an electrical outlet. The long cord means you can take it to the safest part of your house.
- What does bleach do? Non-scented bleach can be used to purify water for drinking or sanitize water for bathing, cooking and cleaning. To purify water, add 16 drops (1/8 teaspoon) per gallon in a large pot or kettle. Stir and let stand for 30 minutes.
- While you might not cage your pet at home, having a pet carrier/cage will help transport your pet safely during an evacuation, and may be required, depending on where you spend the night.
- Why plastic sheeting? It can be used with duct tape to seal doors, windows, and air vents at home, and offers some protection from contaminated air, hazardous materials and bad weather if you must evacuate.
- Personalize your "BOB" for the individual who will be using it. For example, child, pet (children and pets can wear backpacks), special needs, food allergies, etc...
- Consider a solar powered charger for batteries, cell phone and other portable equipment.
- Consider buying equipment that requires the same size batteries (such a AA).
- Consider additional fuel cans and water bottles (refillable).
- Consider purchasing a portable hammock to prevent sleeping on cold, wet ground and the potential for hypothermia
- Consider alternate communication devices such as walkie talkies and GPS.
- Download survival apps on your smart phone or other portable device such as SAS Survival Guide.

Sheltering in Place

In some emergencies, sheltering in place may be safer than evacuating. Tune in to local TV and radio for recommendations from local officials on whether to stay or go. To be prepared to shelter in place, keep these items at home:

Food and Water

- Supply of nonperishable food that needs no cooking
- Hand-operated can opener
- Plastic plates, cups, utensils
- 2 gallons of water per person per day for drinking & sanitation
- Water purifier or collection container

First Aid kit

- Backup prescriptions for essential medications
- Sterile, adhesive band aids in assorted sizes
- Assorted sizes of safety pins
- Cleansing agent/soap
- Latex gloves (2 pairs)
- 2" Sterile gauze pads (4-6)
- 4" Sterile gauze pads (4-6)
- Triangular bandages (3)
- 2" Sterile bandages (3 rolls)
- 3" Sterile bandages (3 rolls)
- Scissors
- Adhesive tape

First Aid kit (continued)

- Tweezers, needle
- Moistened towelettes or baby wipes
- Antiseptic, Rubbing alcohol
- Oral Thermometer
- Tongue depressor (2)
- Tube of petroleum jelly or other lubricant
- Extra eye glasses

Personal Hygiene

- Hand sanitizer or disinfectant wipes
- Toilet paper, paper towels, garbage bags
- Dental care and vision products
- Travel-size soaps and other beauty supplies
- Change of clothes, pair of shoes and blanket per person

Clean Air Items

- Nose and mouth protection masks (N-95 rating)
- Plastic sheeting
- Duct tape

Baby Items

- Formula, bottles, powdered milk
- Diapers
- Baby wipes
- Diaper rash ointment

Lighting/Fire

- Flashlights for each person with extra batteries
- Fluorescent lanterns for each common area
- 3 sources to start a fire: waterproof matches, a utility (BIC) lighter, and a magnesium fire starter
- Candles, magnifying glass (also a fire starter)

Three sources of fire are essential for:

- Boiling water
- Warmth and heat (for drying clothes)
- Cooking
- Signaling (light or smoke)
- Protection/repellent (animals, insects)
- Building tools
- Psychological component: feeling of safety and accomplishment
- Light

Family Safety Items

- Smoke detector with battery for each floor
- Carbon monoxide detector with battery backup
- Fire extinguisher
- Non-scented bleach for sanitization
- Shovel, axe, saw and other basic tools
- Insect repellent, sunscreen
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities, bolt cutters to cut through chains or locks

Transportation Items

- State and regional road maps
- Basic repairs (tools, tire patch kit, engine oil), Road safety kit

Pet Needs

Supply of non-perishable pet food and water
Cage or pet carrier and leash
Pet medications and pet first aid kit
Current photo in case you are separated
Cat litter and box
Pet bed and toys

Communication

Portable, battery-powered or hand crank NOAA weather radio with tone alert and charger and extra batteries
Land-line phone with long cord as a backup
Extra batteries for flashlights, lanterns, radio
Extra cell phone battery, solar battery & car charger
Whistle, two-way radios/walkie talkies
Bathtub water collection bag
Solar cell phone charger

During Weather Emergencies and/or Disasters in the Austin area:

- Register at www.WarnCentralTexas.org to stay informed and get emergency warnings in your neighborhood by text, email or phone
- KLBJ Radio 590 AM for news and weather updates
- @ATCEMS Breaking News Twitter feed and Facebook page [www.Facebook.com/Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services](http://www.Facebook.com/Austin-Travis%20County%20Emergency%20Medical%20Services)
- City of Austin Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM)
Twitter feed @austinHSEM
- Dial 9-1-1 for an emergency, 3-1-1 for information (non-emergency), 2-1-1 for emergency updates and information
- Current flood information and emergency road closures in the Austin Travis County Metro area: www.atxfloods.com
- Get help at www.redcross.org/get-help to find open shelters, disaster relief, post emergency recovery guides and financial assistance

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND MEDICAL ISSUES

People with disabilities and medical issues who need special assistance in the event of evacuation should register with the State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR). The STEAR program is a free registry that provides local emergency planners and emergency responders with additional information on the needs in our community. Registering yourself in the STEAR registry DOES NOT guarantee that you will receive a specific service during an emergency. However, it will ensure you are served if resources are available during an emergency. Registration is VOLUNTARY. All information is kept COMPLETELY CONFIDENTIAL.

Who Should Register

- People with disabilities
- People with access and functional needs such as:
 - People who have limited mobility
 - People who have communication barriers
 - People who require additional medical assistance during an emergency event
 - People who require transportation assistance
 - People who require personal care assistance

How to Register

Register Online at <https://tdem.texas.gov/stear/>

Note: *This database requires annual re-registration – from the date of last registered. Otherwise the registration data will be discarded.*

People with Disabilities Planning

The NFPA *Emergency Evacuation Planning Guide* <https://www.nfpa.org/disabilities> for *People with Disabilities* provides information on the five general categories of disabilities (mobility impairments, visual impairments, hearing impairments, speech impairments, and cognitive impairments), the *Guide* outlines the four elements of evacuation information that occupants need: notification, way finding, use of the way, and assistance. Also included is a *Personal Emergency Evacuation Planning Checklist* that people with disabilities can use to design a personalized evacuation plan.

Steps to helping vulnerable people prepare for wildfire:

1. Neighbors identify and connect with those needing assistance in their neighborhood and make a plan where neighbors act as a buddy to assist disabled residents during events.
2. Make sure disabled residents have a “go-bag” with extra medications, prescriptions, and anything else they need to have with them to reduce the time it will take for them to leave their home.

Household Pets Planning

Make sure pets are included in your family’s evacuation plan; and build each pet their own pet evacuation kit. It doesn’t take a lot of time to build one, and it can usually be done using things you already have at home. See:

<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/TakeAction/Household-pets>

WHEN TO EVACUATE

Leave as soon as evacuation is recommended by fire officials to avoid being caught in fire, smoke or road congestion. Don't wait to be ordered by authorities to leave. Evacuating early also helps firefighters keep roads clear of congestion, and lets them move more freely to do their job. In an intense wildfire, they may not have time to knock on every door. If you are advised to leave, don't hesitate!

- You will be advised of potential evacuations as early as possible. You must take the initiative to stay informed and aware. Listen to your radio/TV for announcements from law enforcement and emergency personnel.
- Courtyard Tennis and Swim Club is our designated assembly point and TRA unless otherwise directed by officials.

Courtyard Tennis and Swim Club TRA Access (★ on page 20 map)

Club staff have been instructed to allow the peaceful congregation of Courtyard residents and emergency personnel in the parking lot and the patio by the clubhouse.

If staff are available to provide access, the tennis courts may be available. Court 14 is ideal, having added structural shelter of a large metal building. If Club electricity is functioning, congregation on the two indoor courts (courts 15 and 16) may be possible.

EVACUATION OR SHELTER IN PLACE?

Deciding whether to evacuate or shelter in place is personal. A fire within site or smell is a threat, and once embers start falling, it may be too late to evacuate. More people are injured and killed in the open than in houses.

When making the decision, ask yourself:

- Do safety zones exist near your house and if so, are they safer than your home?
- What is the rate of spread and intensity of the fire?
- Do you know whether the exit route is blocked by fire or traffic?
- Are you prepared to shelter inside your vehicle or on foot if forced from your car?
- Do you have all the essential items for an emergency kit?
- Do you have enough defensible space surrounding your home?
- Are you and your family members psychologically prepared to remain in your home during the fire?
- Are you prepared to defend your home after the flame front passes?

Sheltering in Place

- Emergency kits are the most important items for personal safety during a wildfire
- All items in the kit should be kept in a bag and each family member should have their own kit.
- Remember, no matter how hot it is inside your home or vehicle, it is ALWAYS worse outside. Stay inside!
- If sheltering in place is the best option, the room to be used should ideally have:
 - Strong construction of low flammability materials with flooring made of concrete, tile, or insulated wood.
 - Small, screened windows and heavy doors with outside areas cleared of brush and debris.

WILDFIRE EVACUATION PLAN



COURTYARD SUBDIVISION

- Subdivision Boundary
- Parcel Boundary
- HOA Common Areas
- Subdivision
- Parcel Boundary
- HOA Common Areas

0 200 400
Feet



Data Source: City of Austin.
Subdivision boundary confirmed with
Travis Central Appraisal District.

Created by Brandon Richards,
June 2009

IF YOU BECOME TRAPPED

While in your vehicle

- Stay calm.
- Park your vehicle in an area clear of vegetation
- Close all vehicle windows and vents
- Cover yourself with a wool or cotton blanket or jacket
- Lie on vehicle floor
- Use your cell phone to advise officials—call 911

While on foot

- Stay calm
- Go to an area clear of vegetation, a ditch or depression on level ground if possible
- Lie face down and cover up your body
- Use your cell phone to advise officials—call 911

While in your home

- Stay calm and keep your family together
- Call 911 and inform authorities of your location
- Fill sinks and tubs with cold water
- Keep doors and windows closed, but unlocked
- Stay inside your house, away from outside walls and windows

Pre-Evacuation Checklist

When wildfire threatens, follow these last-minute steps to reduce damage to your home.

1. STAY SAFE, MONITOR CONDITIONS AND GET ALERTS FOR YOUR AREA

Always evacuate if you feel it is unsafe to stay. **DO NOT** wait to receive an emergency notification if you feel threatened by a fire.

Download the FEMA App and receive real-time alerts from the National Weather Service for up to five locations nationwide.

Sign up for *WarnCentralTexas* (warncentraltexas.org) community alerts in your area and be aware of State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR) for residents with disabilities, and access and functional needs during an emergency (*not all assistance may be available during and emergency*).

2. KNOW YOUR EVACUATION ZONE

You may have to evacuate quickly. Know your community's emergency response plan and have a plan for where to go.

Follow instructions from local authorities. They will provide the latest recommended routes when leaving your home.

3. SHUT OFF GAS SUPPLY TO YOUR HOME

It's standard practice by emergency response to shut off the gas supply to prevent feeding a fire. Doing so yourself reduces risks to your home or structure.

Shut off gas at the meter. Turn the handwheel clockwise to close any valves.

Turn off pilot lights. Close all appliance valves and gas valves inside the house or structure.

Do not move propane cylinders anywhere near a house or structure.

If you have a large propane tank, close the supply valve on the tank. .

4. CLOSE ALL DOORS AND WINDOWS

Closing doors and windows can prevent embers from entering the house or structure and igniting combustible materials, burning it down from the inside out.

5. REMOVE FLAMMABLE CURTAINS AND WINDOW COVERINGS

Close metal shutters if you have them.

6. TURN OFF AIR CONDITIONING

This will prevent outside smoke from entering the home and causing preventable damage.

7. LEAVE YOUR PROPERTY EASILY SEEN AND ACCESSIBLE FOR FIREFIGHTERS

Leave your exterior lights on so firefighters can see your home under smoky conditions.

8. CONSIDER WATER

Connect garden hoses to the spigots but do not leave sprinklers on. It can negatively affect water pressure.

Leave buckets of water around your home.

Act early request a Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) Evaluation and review the Wildfire Action Guide on the courtyardhoa.org website.

RETURNING HOME AFTER A WILDFIRE

Do not return to your home until fire officials determine it is safe. Notification that it is safe to return home will be given as soon as possible, considering safety and accessibility.

When you return home

- Be alert for downed power lines and other hazards
- Check propane tanks, regulators, and lines before turning gas on
- Check your residence carefully for hidden embers or smoldering fires

Safety Basics:

Wait for officials to say it is safe before going back home.

Avoid hot ash, charred trees, smoldering debris, and live embers. The ground may contain heat pockets that can burn you or spark another fire.

Avoid damaged or fallen power lines, poles, and downed wires. They can electrocute you.

Watch for pits in the ground filled with ash. They may have hot embers underneath that could burn you. Mark them for safety, and warn your family and neighbors to keep clear of the pits.

How to Clean Up Safely

Follow public health rules and wear safety equipment.

Avoid direct contact with ash.

Protect yourself against ash when you clean up. Wear gloves, long-sleeved shirts, long pants, shoes and socks to protect your skin. Wear goggles to protect your eyes. Limit how much ash you breathe in by wearing an N95 respirator.

Wash off ash that gets on your skin or in your eyes or mouth as soon as you can.

Children, pregnant women, and people with asthma, heart or lung conditions should not breathe in dust from ash.

Tips to Stay Healthy

Wildfires can make drinking water unsafe. Check with your local health department about drinking water safety.

When in doubt, throw it out! Throw out food that was exposed to heat, smoke, fumes, or chemicals.

Ask your healthcare provider or doctor about using refrigerated medicines.

Take Care of Yourself

It's normal to have a lot of feelings.

Eat healthy food and get enough sleep to help you deal with stress.

AFTERMATH – MOVING BACK TO “NORMAL”

Resources and Contacts

(Expect long call wait times, WIFI and Internet delays and delays in responses for help.)

Contact your insurance agent or company representative: (add phone #) _____

FEMA-Federal Emergency Management Agency: 1-800-621-3362; FEMA app; www.fema.gov

RED CROSS: Get help at www.redcross.org/get-help to find open shelters, disaster relief, post emergency recovery guides and financial assistance. You can contact the Red Cross Disaster Distress Helpline for free if you need to talk to someone at 1-800-985-5990 or text "TalkWithUs" to 66746.

WE ARE BLOOD: For donations, 512-206-1266; 877-212-1266; www.weareblood.org

EMERGENCY ROAD CLOSURES in the Austin Travis County Metro area: www.atxfloods.com

During Emergencies and/or Disasters in the Austin area:

Register at www.WarnCentralTexas.org to stay informed and get emergency warnings in your neighborhood by text, email or phone

KLBJ Radio: **590 AM** for news and weather updates

Emergency Medical Services: Breaking News **X** (Twitter) **@ATCEMS**
Facebook page www.Facebook.com/Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services

City of Austin Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM): **X** (Twitter) **@austinHSEM**

Dial **9-1-1** for an emergency, **3-1-1** for information (non-emergency), **2-1-1** for emergency updates and information

NOTES

