

# PREPARE NOW FOR WILDFIRES

## A GUIDE FOR LAKE TAHOE LONG-TERM RENTERS



Tamarack Fire, 2021  
Photo © California Tahoe Conservancy

**IF YOU SEE SMOKE OR FIRE  
DIAL 9-1-1**



## TAHOE NETWORK OF FIRE ADAPTED COMMUNITIES

Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities is a multi-agency program designed to help residents and visitors prepare for wildfire. Led by Tahoe Resource Conservation District, the Tahoe Network collaborates with the University of Nevada Reno Extension, local fire protection districts, land management agencies, and community members to foster resilient neighborhoods to prepare for wildfire in Lake Tahoe.



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Angora Fire burn scar, 2007  
Photo © CALFIRE

**TO GET INVOLVED PLEASE CONTACT**

fire@tahoercd.org  
(530) 543-1501 ext 114  
tahoelivingwithfire.com



## EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

To receive emergency notifications, you must sign-up with your county's emergency alert database.

Use your phone's camera to scan the QR codes below or visit each county's website.

If you often travel around Lake Tahoe, consider signing up for all four counties. You will also receive notifications when it is safe to repopulate.

### PLACER COUNTY, CA

Placer Alert



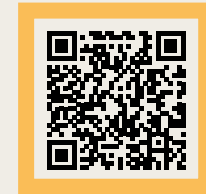
### EL DORADO COUNTY, CA

El Dorado Code Red



### WASHOE COUNTY, NV

Washoe County Code Red



### DOUGLAS COUNTY, NV

Douglas County On the Alert



**SCAN QR CODE OR VISIT WEBSITE**

## WHAT IS A RED FLAG WARNING?



A red flag warning is a forecast issued by the National Weather Service to warn the public and fire personnel of conditions that could lead to extreme fire behavior within the next 24 hours.

During red flag warnings, Lake Tahoe residents must exercise extreme caution, as just one spark could cause a catastrophic wildfire. All sources of outdoor flame are discouraged during red flag warnings including wood, propane and charcoal.

## EVACUATING A WILDFIRE

### HOW WILL I BE NOTIFIED?

Public safety officials use a variety of methods to alert the public of an emergency. However, residents must take initiative to stay informed.

- Local emergency notification system (ENS) automatically sends alerts via text, email, and telephone. **Sign up for each of Lake Tahoe county's ENS by scanning the QR codes on the back of this page or by visiting your county's alert website.** Local government public information officers broadcast media releases to local media outlets.
- Emergency managers initiate the Emergency Alert System which interrupts local radio stations, government cable channels and television broadcasts with emergency information.
- First responders and credentialed volunteers go door-to-door to alert citizens.

### EVACUATION WARNING VS. ORDER

An **evacuation warning (or voluntary evacuation)** suggests a potential threat to life. Evacuation isn't mandatory at this point, although it is advised and preparation is absolutely necessary. An **evacuation order (or mandatory evacuation)** suggests an immediate threat to life. It is a lawful order to leave.

## BE PREPARED

Wildfires can happen anytime in Lake Tahoe. Evacuating can be stressful and scary, so you should have a plan. Familiarize yourself with your neighborhood, identify potential escape routes and build relationships with your neighbors so you can coordinate evacuation plans, especially if you do not have a car.

If evacuation routes are blocked, you may have to shelter-in-place. Call 911 to inform officials of your situation. Do not try to leave until a fire has passed and you can safely drive to a shelter location.

**Use the map below to familiarize yourself with the exit points out of Lake Tahoe.**



### FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

[tahoelivingwithfire.com](http://tahoelivingwithfire.com)



## LONG-TERM RENTER ESSENTIALS

### PREPARE AN EVACUATION GO-BAG

Prepare a Go-Bag before an emergency, and include a minimum of 7 days of supplies you would need to evacuate. Include essentials such as clothes, toiletries, food, water, cash and pet supplies.

Make sure your personal documents (such as social security card, passport, and memorabilia) are accessible. Consider adding a USB drive with copies of these documents to your Go-Bag.

### GET RENTER'S INSURANCE

You could lose all of your personal belongings in a wildfire. With renter's insurance, the personal items you leave behind when evacuating will be covered by your policy.

Additionally, if you are under a mandatory evacuation, insurance may cover your additional living expenses. Make sure to save all your hotel and meal receipts for a refund. Read your policy carefully to understand what it covers. **You can find coverage for as low as \$10 per month.**

### DOCUMENT YOUR BELONGINGS

Create an inventory of all of your personal items in case you need to make an insurance claim.

Take photos of your valuables and upload them to a digital cloud such as Google Drive or iCloud.

### LANDLORD AND RENTER RESPONSIBILITIES

Defensible space refers to the area between a house and an oncoming wildfire where the landscaping has been managed to reduce the wildfire threat and allow firefighters to safely defend the house. In the event that firefighters are not available, defensible space also improves the likelihood of a home surviving without assistance.

Review your lease with your landlord and establish a plan for defensible space and landscaping maintenance such as pine needle pick up.