

# DISASTER PLAN

By Elin Motherhead

With the earthquake in Napa and Fire Season being so long and dangerous in our area, we think more Disaster info is good for all. Share it with your neighbors too. The Santa Rosa Plateau has several ladies who work at getting the word out if there are lost animals or an emergency, Kelly Smith, Stephanie Johnson and Elin Motherhead. If it is a **major disaster**, these ladies along with everyone else will all be trying to cope with possible evacuation due to an Earthquake or a Wildfire, taking care of their family, animals, possible injuries and a million other things. If we still have power, there will be alerts on the TV and radio. Make sure you have a battery operated radio. Cell phones & land line phones may not work for awhile and getting help may take days. **YOU need to have a plan to take care of you and your family and animals until the emergency people can get to you.** Here is some info that may be helpful from a AAA magazine.

## Ready, Set, Evacuate

Sandy Hermann had recently moved with her family to San Marcos in San Diego County. The Coco's Fire endangered their home and they were told to evacuate with little time to grab kids, dogs, valuables & momentos. Eventually they returned to a home untouched by the fire. They were lucky. Sandy said that when she had time to think about it, here is what she would have / should have done ahead of time. For starters, she began scanning her most precious photos so she can store digital ver-

sions somewhere safe.

### **Don't be caught off guard,**

Here are steps to take to help you be ready in the event of an evacuation,

**Create (and practice) an evacuation plan** with the whole family. Designate an out-of-the area contact person and meeting place, and plan two routes out of the neighborhood. Sandy says that while trying to get out, she was stuck in traffic on one road for 45 minutes. This is a good reason to always keep at least a quarter tank of gas in the car.

**Make sure your driveway entrance** and house number are clearly marked.

**Scan and electronically store important documents**—including car titles (pink slips), contracts, deeds, wills, family records, and precious photos—on a cloud-based service or external hard drive. Store originals in a safe deposit box or in a fire proof safe, along with items such as passports and Social Security cards.

**Create a disaster-preparedness kit.** Put copies of key personal

documents (see Packing list on p.17) and survival items in an easy-to-carry bin and store it in a place where it's ready to grab and go. Attach a list of items that can't practically be packed in advance (e.g. medications) to the bin to remind you of what to add at the last minute.

### **Have a pet-evacuation plan.**

Not all disaster shelters accept pets, so arrange for emergency boarding in advance Pack-a-pet kit, including medications and medical records. For more tips and information, visit [aspca.org/pet-care/disaster-preparedness](http://aspca.org/pet-care/disaster-preparedness).

**Sign up for emergency alert notifications in your area.** Monitor fire via TV and Twitter (@Cal\_Fire and @CalFire\_P10) and [www.srpet.com](http://www.srpet.com)

And if you must evacuate, follow these additional steps:

**Close vents, windows, and outside doors to keep out smoke.**

**Shut off the gas supply at the source.** Make sure you know where the source is ahead of time

**Back the car into the driveway** with the windows closed and, if departure is imminent, keep keys within easy reach.



## Disaster Packing List

1. Computers
2. Jewelry & Cash
3. Medications – First Aid Kit
4. Address Book, Club Directory
5. Cell phones and Chargers
6. Photo Albums –video of house in and out
7. Insurance policy, office phone and after hours number
8. Valuables, passports, pink slips
9. Birth, Marriage & Death Certificates & photos on flash drive
10. Put valuable papers & items above in car
11. Have handkerchief or face mask, goggles, bottled water, small animals and their food.

12. Evacuate when asked by authorities.
13. Know the front way and back roads to get out of the Plateau and down to the city.

## INSIDE HOUSE for Wildfire

- Close all interior doors—leave a light on in each room
- Fill bathtubs, buckets and sinks with water. Have towels available to dunk into water and put out any embers.
- Remove drapes & curtains from windows
- Move combustible furniture items away from windows.
- Turn off all pilot lights

## OUTSIDE HOUSE for Wildfire

- Put patio furniture in house
- Close ALL vents & Garage Doors
- Put ladder up to house and unlatch automatic garage doors to help firemen,
- Shut off propane
- Make sure there is a hose attached to every hose bib.
- Put sprinkler on roof, turn on & leave for safety
- Make sure tree branches are trimmed up 15 to 20ft high & at least 10ft from the chimney.
- Have roofs & rain gutters cleared of leaves
- [www.SRPET.com](http://www.SRPET.com) - [www.AAA.com/disasterkit](http://www.AAA.com/disasterkit) [www.Cafire.org](http://www.Cafire.org)

