



A STEP BY STEP GUIDE  
*to Prepare for*  
**LAKE COUNTY HAZARDS**  
(WILDFIRE AND MORE)

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*Emergencies are inherently stressful, but planning ahead can significantly reduce that stress and enhance your ability to respond effectively.*

*By preparing now, you can protect yourself and those around you during crises.*

*Lake County faces various hazards, including earthquakes, fires, and severe weather. For resources, including youth preparedness activities and information on ongoing disasters, visit <https://Ready.LakeCountyCA.gov>.*

*For details on local hazards, view the Hazard Mitigation Plan at <https://lakesheriff.com/about/oes/plans>*

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# Stay Informed

## Sign up for *LakeCoAlerts*



The Lake County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) and OES send emergency alerts via phone call to your landline or cell phone, text and/or SMS messages, email and via social media.

## Know Your Zone



Genasys Protect (formerly called Zonehaven) is a tool that the public can use to look up their zone number ahead of an emergency. LCSO and OES use zone numbers when sending evacuation orders, shelter in place warnings and other emergency information via LakeCoAlerts.



## Follow Official Social Media Sources

For updates on incidents follow:

- **Lake County Sheriff** at [www.facebook.com/lakesheriff](http://www.facebook.com/lakesheriff) and [twitter.com/lake\\_sheriff](https://twitter.com/lake_sheriff)
- **Lake County OES** at [www.facebook.com/LakeCountyOES](http://www.facebook.com/LakeCountyOES)



## Weather Watch

The National Weather Service (NWS) issues warnings and advisories for weather conditions in Lake County. Follow NWS Eureka for weather updates at [www.noaa.gov](http://www.noaa.gov) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/NWSEuerka](http://www.facebook.com/NWSEuerka)



Access links and additional details at  
<https://Ready.LakeCountyCA.gov>





# Prepare to Go:

## Go Bag Essentials

### *What is a Go Bag?*

A Go Bag is an essential emergency kit designed to contain items crucial for your daily needs during an unexpected situation. It should be packed and ready to grab in a moment's notice, stored in a safe and easily accessible location.

### *What to Include in Your Emergency Go Bag:*

Consider adding the following items for each household member to ensure you're prepared for any emergency or evacuation:

- ☐ 3 day supply of water
- ☐ Nonperishable foods
- ☐ Flashlight
- ☐ First aid kit
- ☐ Cellphone charger/backup battery
- ☐ Emergency blanket
- ☐ Personal hygiene/toiletry items
- ☐ Extra clothing
- ☐ Important Documents (See page 7)

#### *Additional Considerations:*

- ☐ Infant formula, bottles, diapers, wipes
- ☐ Games/toys or items to pass the time
- ☐ Pet food, water, accessories
- ☐ Medications





# Home Inventory

*Whether you prefer videos or photos, documenting the contents of your home is crucial. Store these images in a secure location outside your home or upload them to the cloud for safekeeping.*



## *How to Video or Photograph:*

1. Start by capturing wide shots of each room to provide a full view. Make sure to include all major areas such as the living room, bedrooms, kitchen, and bathrooms.
2. Focus on details: Open drawers, closets, and cabinets to capture what's inside. Zoom in on valuable or important items to ensure their details are clearly visible.
3. Narrate the video: If you're recording a video, describe what you're filming as you go. Mention the make, model, or any unique characteristics of valuable items.
4. Photograph individual items: For high-value or particularly important items, take individual photos from multiple angles to capture their condition and identifying features.
5. Don't forget hidden areas: Make sure to document less obvious spaces like the garage, carport, and storage areas, including attics and basements.

## *What to Capture:*

- Each room in your home, including drawers and closets.
- Important or valuable items such as electronics, appliances, sports equipment, tools, TVs, computers, tablets, etc.
- Garage, carport, and storage areas—don't forget to document what's inside these spaces.

**These steps ensure that you have a comprehensive and clear record of your belongings, which can be crucial for insurance claims and recovery after an emergency.**



# Prepare Your Home

## Prior to fire season:

Fire-safe starts with defensible space. Defensible space is the upkeep or landscaped buffer around your home that is designed to improve the likelihood of your home surviving a wildfire. Take time to ensure that your property is clear of dead or overgrown brush, trees, and grass.

*Defensible space is categorized into three zones:*

1. **Zone 0 (0-5 feet from the home):** Remove combustible bark or mulch, all dead and dying weeds, grass, plants, shrubs, trees, branches and vegetation debris around the home. Next, remove any debris from your roof, eaves, porch and gutters. This can help prevent embers from igniting your home. Relocate wood piles to Zone 2 or as far from the home as possible.
2. **Zone 1 (5-30 feet):** This is the “lean, clean and green” zone. Remove all dry and dead vegetation from your yard. Trim trees regularly to keep separation between branches. If possible, also relocate any motor homes, recreational equipment, etc. to zone 2.
3. **Zone 2 (30-100 feet):** Cut or mow grass/vegetation down to a maximum height of 4 inches. Create horizontal space between shrubs and trees. Create vertical space between grass, shrubs and trees. Remove fallen leaves, needles, twigs, bark and small branches. Keep 10' of clearance around exposed wood piles, outbuildings and propane tanks.

## Prior to heavy rains:

- Clean out gutters and repair any roof leaks
- Ensure property drainage system is clear of debris
- Install weather stripping on windows
- Insulate water lines







# IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

## Key Documents to Include:

### ☐ **Property Documents**

Vehicle documentation  
Real estate documents  
Home inventory

### ☐ **Medical Documents**

Insurance information  
Immunization records  
Medications list  
Crucial medical records

### ☐ **Identification Documents**

Birth certificates  
Social security cards  
Passports and driver's license  
Pet microchip numbers

### ☐ **Legal Documents**

Will  
Power of Attorney  
Trust documents

### ☐ **Financial Documents**

Tax documents  
Insurance information  
Bills and obligations details

*Organizing your essential documents in advance ensures that you're ready to respond quickly and effectively in the event of a disaster.*

*Having these documents readily available can be critical for accessing resources, proving identity, and managing legal or financial matters during an emergency.*

## How to Keep Your Important Documents Safe

To protect your essential documents from damage or loss, consider the following steps:

- **Use Waterproof and Fireproof Storage:** Store your documents in a waterproof and fireproof safe or container to shield them from disasters like floods or fires.
- **Make Digital Copies:** Scan your documents and store digital copies securely in the cloud or on an encrypted external drive. This ensures you can access them even if the physical copies are damaged or lost.
- **Consider Off-site Storage:** Keep duplicates or original documents in a secure location outside your home, such as a bank safe deposit box, to ensure they remain accessible even if your home is affected.





# Connect with Neighbors

**Part of what makes Lake County great is the sense of community. This is a crucial step in preparing for all-hazards and building resilience in Lake County.**

## *Plan with Neighbors / Community*

- **Communicate:** Get to know neighbors. Establish a communication plan and identify unmet needs or unique situations (i.e. children home alone, transportation challenges, pets, work out of county, etc.) that would need to be addressed if an evacuation is ordered.
- **Participate:** Join or establish a local Firewise Community and/or Fire Safe Council. Attend local area Town Halls or other community groups.
- **Volunteer:** Local government and non-governmental organizations offer volunteer opportunities for varying skill sets. Some volunteers may be called upon to help prepare the community for disaster or respond during a disaster.



*Volunteer Opportunities with the Lake County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services, Search and Rescue and more.*  
<https://Ready.LakeCountyCA.gov> (Preparedness)



POWER  
OUTAGES

# Prepare to Stay (Without Power)

Whether it is an expected loss of power (such as a PG&E Power Safety Shutoff (PSPS)) or an unexpected loss of power due to downed powerline, the preparation is the same.

*In addition to your Go Bag, consider the following:*



- If applicable, make sure your household knows how to turn off utilities and disconnect appliances to avoid damage from electrical surges.



- Check with PG&E to ensure you receive updates for your residence and for additional programs and information (<https://www.pge.com>).



- Know your medical needs – If you rely on electricity for any medical needs, make a power outage plan for medical devices or refrigerated medicines.
- Keep ice packs and an ice chest ready/accessible

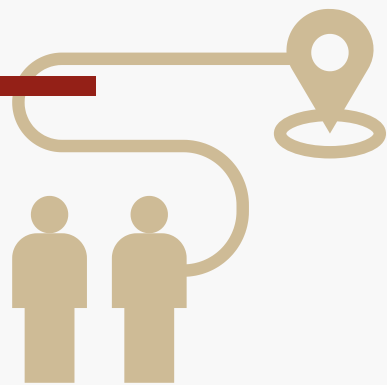


**If you own a generator**, proper maintenance and storage before, during and after use will ensure it is ready when needed.

**Refer to your owner's manual for specific instructions and safety procedures. Three basic steps to maintain your generator include:**

1. Keep Your Portable Generator Clean/Covered When Not in Use
2. Empty Your Portable Generator's Fuel Tank or Carburetor After Use
3. Purchase and Keep Backup Fuel and Filters

# Prepare to Go: Plan to Evacuate



- Discuss an evacuation and communication plan with your household. Establish a meet up point in case of separation during the evacuation.



- Know where you will evacuate to: out of town with a family member? RV/campground? Congregate sheltering?

- Make sure that everyone knows where the go-bags are stored so that anyone in the home can grab it and go during an unexpected evacuation.



- Maintain at least a half of tank of gas in your car at all times.

Thank you for preparing.  
Individual Efforts Contribute to the Success of All.  
<https://Ready.LakeCountyCA.gov>