DIY Evacuation Drill

Larger practice drills are great, but it can be difficult to get those organized and get a large number of residents to participate.

Here is what you *can* do to prepare, all by yourself!

1. Look at maps and figure out ALL of your potential ways to drive out. We don't know where a fire is coming from until it is burning. So be prepared for all options. Print the map out: Your phone may not work during a wildfire. Cell towers burn. Cell networks get overloaded.

2. DRIVE the different routes! Take a Sunday drive. Go with a few neighbors. See what the roads look like and become familiar with them, especially key intersections.

3. Drive the roads at night! You may need to evacuate at night. Roads look different in the dark!

4. Practice calling your neighbor by surprise and then have them call you, so you can feel what it's like to have just a moment's notice.

5. Practice taking all the cushions and flammable materials off your porches and decks—see how much time it takes you. You may not have time but just in case, be prepared. That may make you want to take some of the burnable furniture or other items off permanently!

Most of All….be mentally prepared to leave WAY before the fire. You don't need to wait for the evacuation warning. If there is a Red Flag warning – which means high temperatures, high winds, and low humidity – the chances of a wildfire are much, much higher. In fact, especially deadly fires—the Camp, Tubbs, Palisades and Eaton fires – all burned on Red Flag days.

BE READY TO ACT. Have your Go bag in your car! Have your pet carriers ready!