Mini-Lesson

What do you need besides your go bag when you evacuate?

You never know what you might encounter when you are evacuating. The best plan is to leave early. If it's a Red Flag Warning day, think of going to the mall in Roseville, or anywhere far away from possible fire starts. But if you do stay, here are some good things to have in your car in addition to your Go bag.

Make sure your car is ready to drive! Most important – make sure your car is in good working order and has at least a half a tank of gas. Have some extra engine oil and water, and a couple of basic tools, like an adjustable wrench.

Stay informed and know where you are going! Have downloaded maps or even old-fashioned printed maps of your key evacuation routes. Cell towers burn and networks get overloaded during fires. Don't assume you can GPS your way out of a fire with your phone. Have a portable, emergency radio with you. That may be your only way of knowing what is going on. Take a Sunday drive and practice driving on your key roads in and out. Including at night!

Identify neighbors who need help getting out! Many of the people that died in the Camp Fire were elderly or did not have a way to get out on their own. Organize a "buddy" system in our neighborhood or Firewise Community ahead of time, so folks know who each other are and who is going to help whom!

Pack these handy items; they just might save you. When embers land on synthetic clothing, it melts into your skin. Instead, wear or pack natural fiber clothing (wool, cotton, linen, hemp).
A *battery-operated chainsaw* is great if a tree falls across the road in the wind that often comes with a fire (I know this sounds bad, but it can and does happen). *Bolt cutters*. A lot of us have locked gates that block last resort exit roads – have something to cut the lock.

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