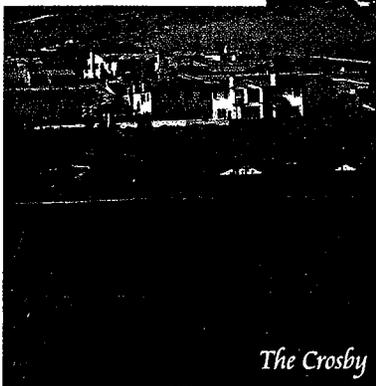


Sheltering in Place During Wildfires



4S Ranch

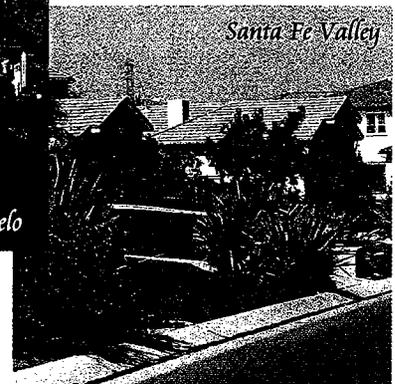
A modern approach to living safely in a wildland-urban interface community.



The Crosby

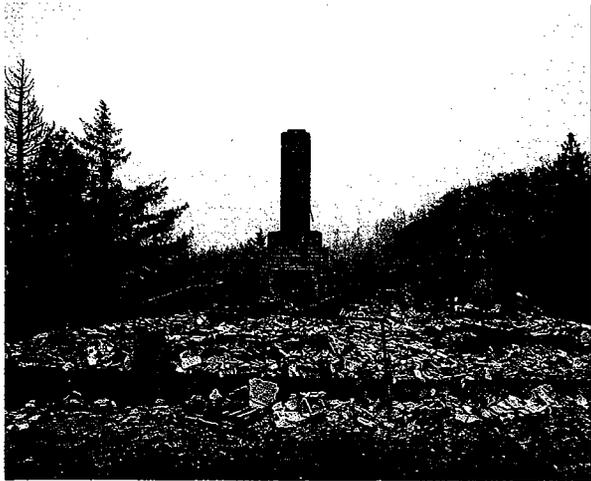


Cielo



Santa Fe Valley

For the communities of:
The Bridges, Cielo, The Crosby, 4S Ranch, and Santa Fe Valley



Every year, communities throughout San Diego County experience the devastation of wildfire.

Southern California's warm climate, flammable vegetation, Santa Ana winds and steep terrain make up a dangerous wildfire equation. More and more communities are being developed within wildland-urban interface areas, placing people, pets and homes at risk of succumbing to wildfire.

Typically, when a wildfire threatens homes, evacuations are ordered. Evacuations will shelter residents away from danger during a catastrophic event. During evacuations though, panic and chaos ensue, causing traffic collisions, blocked roadways, injuries and deaths. In fact, most wildfire-related deaths occur during evacuation efforts.

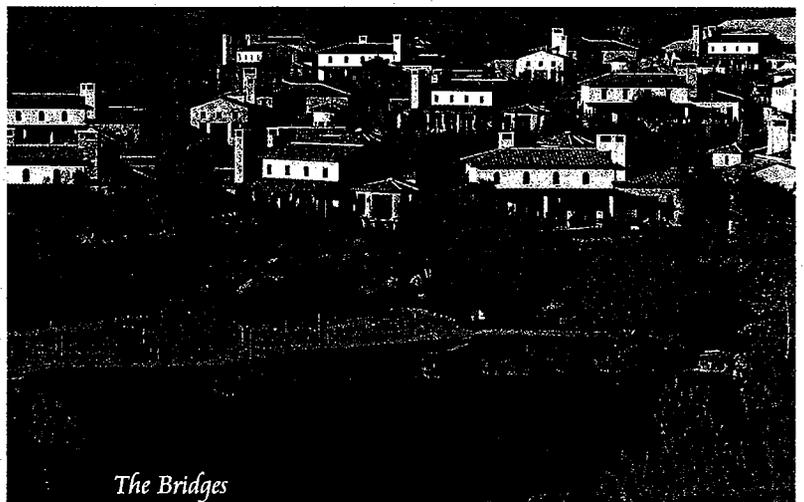
Your community, however, is designed to shelter you inside your home, far away from these congested evacuation routes.

By residing in one of the five communities listed below, your home is considered shelter-in-place. This means you will *not* need to evacuate during a wildfire. Homes in these master-planned communities are designed and constructed to withstand wildfire, so residents are safe to shelter inside.

This guide has been developed for you, the shelter-in-place resident. Inside, you will learn about the factors that make your community fire-resistive, the steps to take when a wildfire approaches, the supplies to keep in your family's emergency supply kit, and most importantly, the ways to maintain your shelter-in-place community for the future.

The Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District has five shelter-in-place communities:

*The Bridges
Cielo
The Crosby
4S Ranch
Santa Fe Valley*



The Bridges

* If you do not live in one of the communities listed left, you should not shelter-in-place. Instead, refer to the RSF Fire District's 'Getting out Alive' evacuation brochure, available at each of our fire stations or on line at <http://www.rsf-fire.org>.

Defining *Shelter-in-Place*

During a wildfire, sheltering in place means to stay inside a house or structure that is fire-resistant and air tight, and remain there until the emergency is over.

To be considered shelter-in-place, an entire community must be designed to withstand heat and flames from an approaching wildfire. Meaning, every home must share the same fire-resistant design qualities, including a well-maintained, fire district-approved vegetation management plan.

Your home is shelter-in-place because it has the following design features:

- ✓ Constructed of fire-resistant materials
- ✓ Boxed eaves
- ✓ Residential fire sprinklers
- ✓ A well-maintained, fire-resistant landscape with a minimum 100-foot defensible space surrounding all structures
- ✓ A "Class-A," non-combustible roof
- ✓ Dual pane or tempered glass windows
- ✓ Chimneys with spark arrestors containing a minimum 1/2" screening

Your community, as a whole, also includes these shelter-in-place features:

- ✓ Adequate roadway and driveway widths, designed to accommodate two way traffic and large firefighting apparatus
- ✓ Adequate water supply and water flow for firefighting efforts
- ✓ Vegetation-modification zones surrounding your community

To remain a shelter-in-place community, these design qualities must be maintained year-round.



Fire-resistant construction



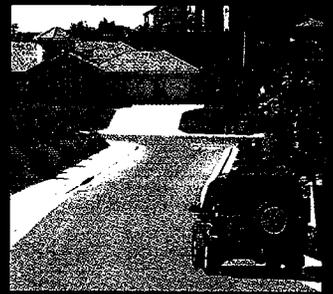
Residential fire sprinklers



Fire-resistant landscaping



"Class-A" roofing and dual pane windows



Adequate roadway widths

When Wildfire Approaches

As a wildfire nears your shelter-in-place community, you are advised to do the following:



QUICK TIP:

During a catastrophic wildfire, do not call 911 unless you have a life-threatening emergency.

- Listen for fire updates on the television or radio. Since the electricity may go out, have a battery or solar-powered television or radio on hand, with extra batteries.
- Do not attempt to pick up children from school or daycare; staff members are trained to protect your children and will institute proper emergency procedures on site.
- Bring pets inside; put livestock and horses in a secure place.
- If you must go outside, wear a long-sleeve shirt and long pants comprised of cotton or wool; never wear synthetics. To minimize smoke inhalation, cover your nose and mouth with a damp cloth.
- If time and conditions permit, move anything that can catch fire away from the exterior of your home, including: combustible lawn furniture, cloth awnings, barbecues, portable propane tanks, trash, and fire wood. Re-locate these items to the furthest point in your yard, away from your home and neighboring structures.
- Close your garage door(s). If your garage door operates on electricity, disconnect the unit and operate the door manually.
- If you have a wooden fence that connects to the exterior of your home, prevent flames from spreading from the fence to your house by propping open the gate, or removing the portion of your fence that touches your home.

roaches...

Why not evacuate?

FACT: Most wildfire-related deaths occur during evacuation efforts.

Factors contributing to the high number of evacuation injuries and deaths include: heavy smoke, flying embers, panicked drivers and the sheer volume of cars and horse trailers on the road.

During past wildfires, dark smoke and last minute evacuations have caused panicked evacuees to drive off roads and crash, trapping them in the fire's path.

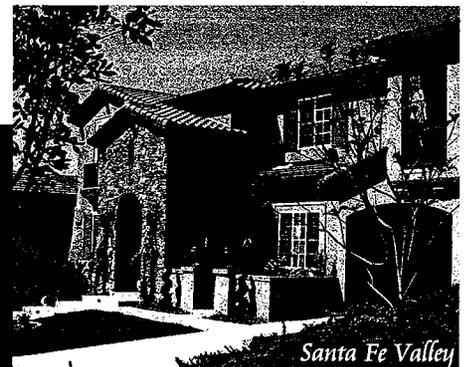
Traffic collisions are also common during evacuation efforts. These incidents compromise the evacuation of other residents, as well as delay firefighters from protecting homes threatened by flames.

For these reasons, it is safer for residents in shelter-in-place communities to stay inside their fire-resistant homes than risk evacuating on dangerous roadways.

- If time and conditions permit, attach garden hoses to outdoor spigots. Place hoses so they can reach around any area of your home.
- Do not climb on your roof to wet it down; the slippery surface presents significant safety issues. Remember, your roof is already comprised of non-combustible materials designed to resist heat, embers and flames.
- Turn off all fans and air conditioning/heating units. Close all glass doors to your fireplace, and close fireplace dampers, if possible.
- Close all interior and exterior doors and windows to prevent embers from entering your home.
- Draw draperies and window coverings wide open, well past the perimeter of the window. This will prevent radiant heat from catching the window coverings on fire. Do not cover the inside of windows with foil or any other materials.
- Move interior furniture away from windows and sliding glass doors to prevent radiant heat from catching the furniture on fire.
- Stay indoors and wait for the wildfire-front to pass. Shelter in rooms at the opposite end of your home from where the fire is approaching. Stay away from the perimeter walls. *If the interior of your home catches fire, and the fire sprinklers don't activate, go to one of your pre-determined safe zones.*
- Call your out-of-state emergency contact to let them know you are sheltering in place. If local phone lines go down, try using a cellular phone as an alternative, or correspond via email if possible.
- Once the fire front has passed, thoroughly check your home, yard, roof, attic, etc. for fire. Use a hose or fire extinguisher to extinguish any spot fires or smoldering embers.

Remain calm.

*Stay inside your home until
the wildfire-front passes.*



Santa Fe Valley

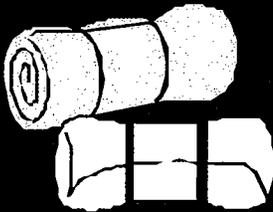
Your Emergency Supply Kit



3-day water supply



*3-day food supply,
can opener and utensils*



*Sleeping bags and
blankets*



First aid kit



*Portable radio or TV,
with extra batteries*

In the event food, water and electricity become unavailable during a large-scale disaster, a personal emergency supply kit will provide you the tools to survive until help arrives.

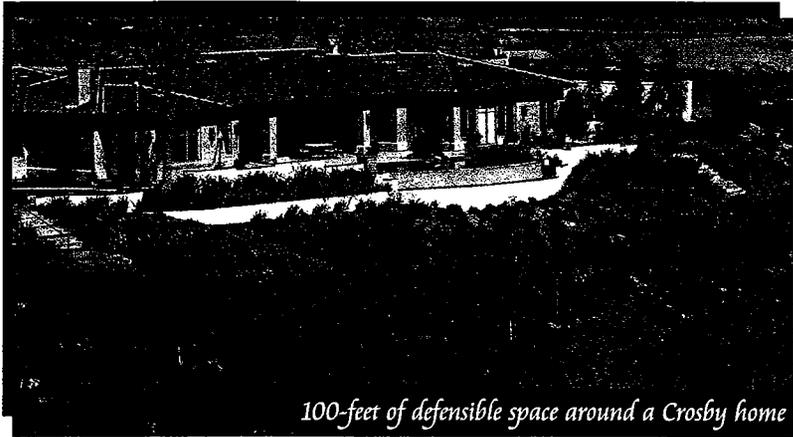
When assembling your kit, keep supplies in easy-to-carry crates or backpacks, and consider making a kit for your motor vehicle(s). Review and/or update the contents of your kit twice annually. Include the following in your emergency supply kit:

- A 3-day food supply consisting of non-perishable foods, a can opener and kitchen utensils
- A 3-day water supply consisting of one gallon of water per person, per day
- One change of clothing and shoes per person
- Enough blankets and/or a sleeping bag for each person
- A first aid kit, including family prescriptions and spare eyeglasses
- A 5-pound ABC-rated (multi-purpose) fire extinguisher
- Emergency tools and work gloves
- A battery or solar-powered radio or television with extra batteries for use if the electricity fails
- Flashlights with extra batteries
- Matches and/or a lighter. Store these in a water-proof container
- Sanitation and hygiene items, and medications; any special-care items for infants, seniors or those with disabilities
- A credit card and cash; personal identification; extra set of car and house keys
- Extra pet food, leash(es), and enough pet carriers to transport all pets
- Sunglasses and/or goggles (for high wind and blowing embers)
- Entertainment (i.e., books and games for the family)

*Keep your flashlight and portable radio with you.
Stay tuned to local news-radio stations like
KOGO AM-600 for updates.*

Remaining *Shelter-in-Place*

The shelter-in-place "chain"



100-feet of defensible space around a Crosby home

*Maintenance
is the key
to keeping
your
community
fire-resistive.*

When remodeling or putting an addition on to your existing home, be sure your plans match the shelter-in-place guidelines:

- Exterior walls must be fire-resistive. No wood siding.
- Eaves must be boxed, and all vents must be screened to prevent fire embers from entering the inside of your home.
- Windows must be dual pane or tempered glass.
- Chimneys must have spark arrestors with minimum 1/2" screening.
- Residential fire sprinkler systems must be maintained.
- Roof must be comprised of Class-A, non-combustible materials like tile, slate, cement, asphalt or metal. No wood shingles.
- Wood fences should not touch the exterior of your home.
- Trellises, patio covers and other auxiliary structures must be made with non-combustible materials. Minimum timber size requirements are 4x6, and columns must be masonry and stucco, or precast concrete. The structure's covering must remain at least 50% open, or Class-A roofing is required.
- Decks should be non-combustible, or constructed of heavy timber or fire retardant-treated wood.
- Landscape MUST be fire-resistive and well-maintained:
 - ▶ Keep 100-feet of "defensible space" around your home. Trim trees and vegetation well away from the exterior of your home, rooftop, and chimney(s).
 - ▶ Replenish dead and dying vegetation with fire-resistive trees and plants; do not re-plant with flammable vegetation.
 - ▶ For more information on landscaping, and for lists of desirable and undesirable plants and trees, log on to <http://www.rsf-fire.org>.

- ✓ CONSTRUCTION
- ✓ BOXED EAVES
- ✓ FIRE SPRINKLERS
- ✓ LANDSCAPING
- ✓ DEFENSIBLE SPACE
- ✓ WINDOWS
- ✓ ROOFING
- ✓ VENT SCREENS
- ✓ SPARK ARRESTORS
- ✓ WATER SUPPLY
- ✓ ROADWAY WIDTH

Keeping the links intact...

Homes with every link intact in the shelter-in-place chain have survived past wildfires. Break one link in the chain though, and your home, family and entire community are at risk.

Every property owner must do their part to keep the chain complete in order to remain a shelter-in-place community.





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Emergencies Dial 9-1-1



during Wildfires