



**If your family is in danger from a wildfire, don't wait for an evacuation order. GO EARLY! Most wildfire-related deaths occur during evacuation efforts. Residents wait too long, leave too late, and end up trapped in the path of the fire.**



*Leaving early is the best way to protect yourself and your loved ones.*



**Orange County  
Fire Authority**

[www.ocfa.org/RSG](http://www.ocfa.org/RSG)

Wildfires move at incredible speeds and can change direction in an instant. If you're trapped before you can safely evacuate, there are steps you can take to help your family survive.

Prepare to shelter-in-place. Most homes are exposed to a wildfire's flame front for a short time, but those 10 or 15 minutes can be terrifying. Loud noise, blinding smoke, and unbearable heat will trigger a natural urge to escape, but you must stay inside until the flame front passes. No matter how hot it gets inside, the air outside will be 4 to 5 times hotter.

- Keep everyone together, away from windows and outside walls
- Dress in thick, natural-fiber clothing. Wear long sleeves, long pants, goggles, a bandana or dust mask, and heavy boots to protect skin from radiant heat burns
- Stay hydrated. Heat exhaustion and dehydration are serious threats during a wildfire
- Make sure exit routes are clear. Leave outside doors and windows closed and close bedroom and hallway doors inside the house
- Keep flashlights and fire extinguishers within reach
- Fill sinks, bathtubs, and buckets with water. Soak towels and use them to cover gaps or cracks under doors or around windows to keep smoke and embers out
- Patrol inside your home, especially the attic, for spot fires and extinguish them before they spread
- Stay out of hot tubs and pools. They will not protect you from fire

Never underestimate the force and intensity of a wildfire. Staying calm and keeping a clear head will help you survive if you're forced to shelter-in-place, but early evacuation is the safest choice.

For more information, please visit the OCFA website or call **(714) 573-6774** to schedule a wildfire home assessment.