

## **Fire Evacuation Checklist**

A fire evacuation is stressful and fast-moving, but having a solid plan in place before disaster strikes can make all the difference. This checklist will help you prepare for an emergency, know what to take, and protect your insurance claim.

### **1. Create a Home Inventory Video**

- Walk through your home, room by room, recording everything.
- Open drawers, closets, and cabinets to document stored items.
- Narrate while filming: mention brand names, serial numbers, and purchase dates.
- Include the garage, attic, and outdoor storage.
- Save your video securely in the cloud or email it to yourself.

### **2. Grab the Essentials - What to Take With You**

- Identification & Legal Documents: Passports, birth certificates, Social Security cards, driver's license, house deed.
- Medical & Financial Necessities: Medications, health insurance cards, bank records.
- Valuables & Electronics: Jewelry, laptops, external drives, sentimental keepsakes.

### **3. Preparing Your Pets for Evacuation**

- Crate or pet carrier
- Leash and collar
- Food and water (at least 3 days' worth)
- Medications and vet records
- A comfort item (toy, blanket, or bed)

### **4. Smart Evacuation - What to Do Before You Leave**

- Pack a small bag with clothes and emergency items.
- Tell someone where you're going.
- Close all windows and doors to slow fire spread.
- Turn off HVAC systems to prevent smoke from circulating.
- Leave garden hoses and ladders accessible for firefighters.

### **5. Special Considerations for Vulnerable Individuals**

- Plan extra evacuation time for elderly or disabled family members.
- Keep mobility aids accessible.
- Pack essential medications and medical equipment.
- For infants: Have a baby carrier, diapers, and formula ready.

## **6. Where to Go After Evacuating**

- Check emergency shelters set up by the Red Cross or local authorities.
- Hotels - Some insurance policies cover temporary housing.
- Stay with friends or family if possible.
- Track evacuation updates via emergency alerts and social media.

## **7. Returning to Your Home After a Fire**

- Wait for official clearance before entering.
- Check for structural damage, gas leaks, and electrical hazards.
- Turn off electricity before entering if it wasn't shut off earlier.
- Secure your property by boarding up windows and fencing.

## **8. Fireproof and Fire-Safe Items for Future Protection**

- Store important documents in a fireproof safe.
- Back up digital files in the cloud.
- Consider installing home fire sprinklers and extinguishers.

*For expert help with fire insurance claims, visit:*  
[www.yppublicadjusters.com/fire-evacuation-checklist/](http://www.yppublicadjusters.com/fire-evacuation-checklist/)