



**For information and assistance  
on services and programs in  
your area call**

**1 (800) 510-2020**

## ***Tips for Seniors***

### **What to do in a Wildfire**

#### **Before the Fire Approaches Your House**

- ❖ Evacuate. Evacuate your pets and all family members. Anyone with medical or physical limitations and the elderly should be evacuated immediately.
- ❖ Wear protective clothing
- ❖ Close vents, windows, doors, pet doors etc. Remove flammable drapes and curtains. Close all shutters, blinds or heavy window coverings to reduce radiant heat.
- ❖ Close inside doors/open damper but close the fireplace screen
- ❖ Shut off Gas, propane or fuel oil supplies at the source
- ❖ Disconnect any automatic garage door openers so that doors can still be opened by hand if the power goes out. Close all garage doors.
- ❖ Place valuable papers, mementos and anything “You can’t live without” inside the car in the garage, ready for quick departure. Any pets still with you should also be put in the car. Don’t forget your medications, glasses or other assistive devices
- ❖ Turn on outside lights and leave a light on in every room to make the house more visible in heavy smoke
- ❖ Don’t Lock Up. Leave doors and windows closed but unlocked. It may be necessary for firefighters to gain quick entry into your home to fight fire. The entire area will be isolated and patrolled by sheriff’s deputies or police
- ❖ If you are trapped at home, stay calm. As the fire front approaches, go inside the house. You can survive inside. The fire will pass before your house burns down.

# ***Tips for Seniors*** ***(continued)***

## **What to do in a Wildfire**

### **Survival in a Vehicle**

- ❖ This is dangerous and should only be done in an emergency, but you can survive the firestorm if you stay in your car. It is much less dangerous than trying to run from a fire on foot. Roll up windows and close air vents. Drive slowly with headlights on. Watch for other vehicles and do not drive through heavy smoke. If you have to stop, park away from the heaviest trees and brush. Turn the headlights on and ignition off.
- ❖ Get on the floor and cover up with a blanket or coat. Stay in the vehicle until the main fire passes. **Stay in the car. Do not run!**

### **If Caught in the Open**

- ❖ The best temporary shelter is a depression in a sparse fuel area. Clear fuel from the area while the fire is approaching, lie face down in the depression and cover yourself. If a road is nearby, lie face down along the road cut or in the ditch on the uphill side. Cover yourself with anything that will shield you from the fire's heat.