FREE PRINTABLE RESOURCE

RURAL WILDFIRE EVACUATION CHECKLIST

The plan, the last-hour house sequence, vehicles, and animals. Leave before the order, not after it.

BEFORE FIRE SEASON

- [ ] **Sign up for county emergency alerts**
- [ ] **Map two evacuation routes**
  One road out is not a plan
- [ ] **Pick a family meeting point**
- [ ] **Pack a go bag per person**
  Water, food, meds, documents, chargers
- [ ] **Keep vehicles above half a tank**
- [ ] **Sturdy shoes + flashlight by the bed**

INSIDE THE HOUSE

- [ ] **Windows and doors closed, unlocked**
- [ ] **Flammable curtains down, furniture to room centers**
- [ ] **Gas off at the meter**
- [ ] **Lights on, inside and out**
  Keeps the house visible in smoke

Only if you have time. The house gets the spare minutes, never the necessary ones. If officials say go, or you feel at risk, leave immediately.

OUTSIDE & VEHICLE

- [ ] **Patio furniture, doormats, bins inside or in the pool**
- [ ] **Propane off, grill away from the house**
- [ ] **Hoses on spigots, buckets filled**
  For fire crews. Don't leave water running
- [ ] **Ladder against the house**
  Roof access for firefighters
- [ ] **Go bags loaded, car facing out**
  Doors and windows shut
- [ ] **Cotton long sleeves, pants, tough boots**

ANIMALS

- [ ] **Trailer or hauler arranged in advance**
- [ ] **Destination confirmed**
  Fairgrounds, stockyard, or friend's land
- [ ] **Vet records, registration, photos packed**
- [ ] **Pets: carrier each, ID tags, food + meds**

If animals must stay: cleared area, 48–72 hours of hay, no reliance on automatic waterers. Firefighters may free trapped animals but won't evacuate them.

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Sources: CAL FIRE Ready for Wildfire — Go! Evacuation Guide; U.S. Fire Administration. For informational purposes only. Follow local officials' instructions first.