



Orange County Fire Authority

# Wildfire Preparedness

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

## Major Wildfires

### Stagecoach Fire

October 1993

#### **Burned:**

750 acres and 8 structures.

### Laguna Fire

October 1993

#### **Burned:**

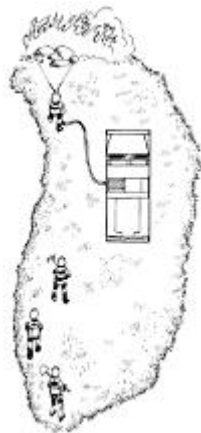
16,500 acres and 366 structures.  
Damaged 17 other structures

### Baker Fire

October 1997

#### **Burned:**

6,317 acres and 2 structures



The wildfire problem in Orange County exceeds what can be managed by the OCFA alone. The Fire Safe Council, OCFA, U.S. Forest Service, Orange County Sheriff, and others have developed pre-emergency plans to significantly reduce threats to life and property due to wildfire.

## Information

**Got Clearance?** Prepare your home and maintain clear defensible space around it.

**Pre-Fire Plans:** In a cooperative effort, OCFA, law enforcement, adjoining fire agencies, and organizations such as the Red Cross, school districts, water departments, park service, and nature reserve services are developing comprehensive wildland-urban interface emergency response plans that will guide fire and rescue operations during catastrophic fires.

**The Fire Safe Council** is a group of community-based private citizens who are interested in wildfire prevention and response. The Council is involved in a number of fire prevention and emergency preparedness programs such as:

- Canyon Clean-Sweep (typically each spring)
- Federal Grants Program
- List of invalid residents who may need emergency assistance
- Livestock evacuation programs
- Emergency communications systems
- Fire safety bulletins
- Fire safety patrols during high fire danger (red flag) warnings
- Integration with fire incident commanders

## For More Information:

[www.firesafecouncil.org](http://www.firesafecouncil.org)  
[www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org)  
[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)  
[www.fs.fed.us/r5/cleveland/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/cleveland/)  
[www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov)  
[www.edis.ca.gov](http://www.edis.ca.gov)  
[www.usfa.gov](http://www.usfa.gov)  
[www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)

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

## Before the Fire, Make a Kit and Make a Plan



### What should I do when a wildfire approaches?

- ✓ Keep your car's fuel tank full, and park facing out.
- ✓ Pack only essentials, such as medications.
- ✓ Leave your home only if you have time to make it to a safer area.
- ✓ Close heavy draperies; but remove lightweight curtains.
- ✓ Leave lights on in the house to mark your home for emergency responders.

### When should I evacuate?

- ✓ Evacuate if directed by authorities, or if fire is headed towards your home.
- ✓ Evacuate using pre-identified, improved road "escape routes".
- ✓ If you can see the fire close-by, it may be too late to travel.
- ✓ Seek immediate shelter in a wide, clear "safe area," such as in a large parking lot or with firefighters.

### What if I choose to ignore evacuation orders?

- ✓ Be prepared to face intense heat and black, blinding, choking smoke.
- ✓ Have a hose, rake, and shovel available. Fill tubs and sinks with water in case pumps fail.
- ✓ Wear long sleeve shirts, long pants, heavy boots, gloves, and a bandana.
- ✓ Remove combustible materials from around the house; turn off propane tank.
- ✓ Inside your house is the safest place to seek temporary refuge as the fire front passes.
- ✓ Identify a second area of refuge nearby.
- ✓ If the house or propane tank becomes involved in fire, seek secondary shelter.
- ✓ Once the fire front passes, be ready to put out fires on your roof or in your attic.

### What if my kids are in school?

- ✓ Firefighters will prioritize protecting and evacuating school sites.
- ✓ Know your school's evacuation plans and where they will take your student.
- ✓ Develop an emergency plan for baby sitters and other care providers.

### What should I do with my animals?

- ✓ Take small animals with you if you can. Do not release large stock animals to run wild.
- ✓ Large stock animals may be taken to alternate stables or to the Orange County fairgrounds.

### Make a Kit, Make a Plan, Stay Informed:

- ✓ Make an evacuation kit: Keep some old shoes and flashlights handy for a night evacuation.
- ✓ Keep valuables, documents and medicines in one place so they can be accessed quickly.
- ✓ Have the car ready to go, especially in dangerous (red flag) fire weather.
- ✓ Have a family emergency plan and re-unification plan. Practice it before the fire.
- ✓ Join your local fire safe council, and assist with other community fire prevention efforts.
- ✓ Stay informed of weather predictions, such as Santa Ana winds and Red Flag Warnings:

**NOAA Radio 162.450 MHz -or- Local TV -or- AM News Radio or [www.edis.ca.gov](http://www.edis.ca.gov)**