



Evacuation Fire Drill DeBrief for Bayside Acres

Who Said "It Could Never Happen Here?"

July 23, 2022
Revised July 24, 2022
Bayside Acres Firewise Team

At the end of our drill today, two people walked by our packed car. They asked what we were doing. When we told them we had just completed our neighborhood wildfire evacuation drill, one walker remarked: "That will never happen here." I told her that was the subtitle of the slides I had prepared for today's debrief.

Agenda

Presenter: Julia Glenister
Co-Presenter: Alan Schaevitz

- **Welcome to our Bayside Acres Wildfire Evacuation De-Brief on Zoom**
- **Zoom Voice/Chat Protocol:** If All Else Fails, Raise Your Hand to Speak
- **Short Slide Presentation:** “Who Says It Will Never Happen Here?”
- **What did we learn from the drill?**
 - How long did it take to pack your Go-Bags? Did you get all your Grab & Go items in 20 minutes? What about Preparing Your Home?
 - **Any successes or revelations** you want to tell us about?
 - **Anything you would do differently or any advice to share?**

- Thank you for your participation in today’s Wildfire Evacuation Drill and de-brief.
- Before we begin, Alan has a few words to say about how best to comment or ask questions

**Does Our Cover Slide
Look Familiar?**



- This photo was taken on our Bayview Trail (just above Bayside Acres) after a June 2016 fire.
- At least five fires were started in Loch Lomond, Bayside Acres and Glenwood that month by a teen-age arsonist.
- Note how the Bayview Fire Trail created a fuel break.

This is Now!

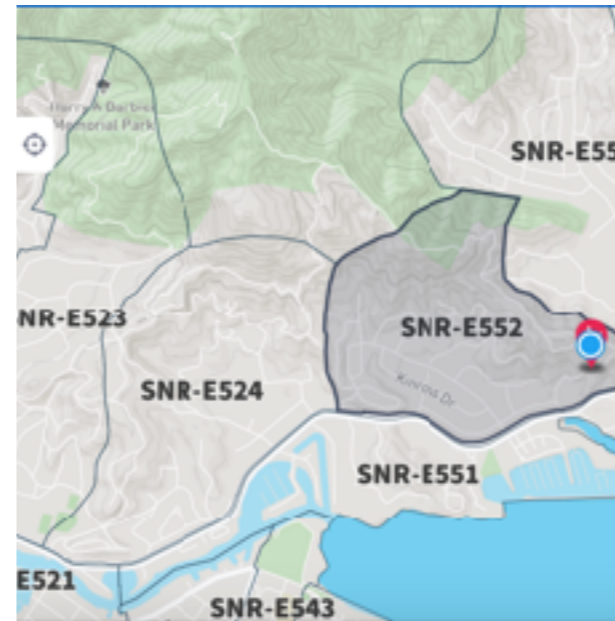


- This photo was taken the day before today's presentation on July 22, 2022.
- Our open space is once again overgrown with French Broom.
- You can see why the Pt San Pedro Road Coalition's Broom Pulls every year are so important. A special shoutout to Bonnie Marmor and her committee who organize these
- Capt. Reeser of the Marin County fire department hopes to come back with the MCFD's masticator this month, but they are focused right now on West Marin.

Zonehaven

Marin County Evacuation Zones

- Bayside Acres zone is SNR-E552
- In order to understand whether your area is under an evacuation warning or order, you need to know your Zone Name.
- Authorities use Zone Names in media releases and on social media to notify residents which areas are under an evacuation warning or order.



- You do not have to memorize our zone, but it would be a good idea to keep it handy.
- If there is an evacuation order by zone it will ALWAYS be accompanied by street names, according to Woody Baker-Cohn, assistant emergency services manager in the Marin Sheriff's office.
- San Rafael Fire Station No. 55 at 955 Pt. San Pedro Rd is our nearest fire station and you can see it is part of the zone designation.

What are Evacuation Zones?

In the event of a wildfire or an emergency situation, law enforcement and fire agencies issue evacuation warnings or evacuation orders for impacted areas. These notices are issued for a **Zone** with an **Evacuation Status**.



Zones will appear in different colors depending on the evacuation status. Click on your zone to determine the status and get additional information.

Evacuation Status Levels

- Evacuation Order.** An immediate threat to life. This is a lawful order to leave now. The area is lawfully closed to public access.
- Evacuation Warning.** A potential threat to life and/or property. Those who require additional time to evacuate, and those with pets and livestock should leave now.
- Advisory.** A notice to be on alert and follow county recommendations.
- Clear To Repopulate.** It is safe to return to your home. Be aware of your surroundings and go through the [returning home checklist](#).
- Shelter in Place.** An order to go indoors. Shut and lock doors and windows. Prepare to self-sustain until further notice and/or contacted by emergency personnel for additional direction.
- Normal.** There is no current knowledge of threats affecting your area and that you can carry on with normal activity.

Evacuation Order - Load family and pets in the car. Grab Your Go-Bags (if you have time). It is recommended you only take one car to minimize congestion on your road and Pt. San Pedro Rd.

Evacuation Warning - This warning applies to people who need additional time to evacuate and includes those with pets. If you leave early you could take more than one car. Advice from SFRD emergency officials: Bayview Drive is a narrow road and will most likely be congested if an Evacuation Order is issued later so for those living on such narrow roads it may be wise to consider early departure.

Shelter in Place - The SFRD has advised us that many of the properties in Bayside Acres have one acre, and are good candidates for a Shelter-in-Place order provided that they have hardened their homes and cleared defensible space at least 30' from their homes.

So How Did Your Drills Go?

- Did you get the Alert Marin notification about our drill this morning at 10 AM? If the phone call was marked as “Potentially SPAM by your provider, you should add this number for Alert Marin in your contacts: (415) 473-6376.
- Did you manage to pack your Go-Bags? Load your family and pets in the car? Get all the items on your “Grab and Go” list? How about your “Prepare the Home” list?
- Did you put up an Evacuation tag and lock your doors at the end?
- Does anyone want to start off by sharing their experience this morning?

Our First Alert Marin Notification

- **** THIS IS ONLY A DRILL ****

Evacuation Drill. Load your car-but don't leave. Time yourself.

Zoom to discuss at noon: <https://bit.ly/3yOjv4U> Current status: <https://emergency.marincounty.org/>



- A big thank you to both **Woody Baker-Cohn**, assistant emergency services manager, and **Hannah Tarling** in the **Office of Emergency Services in the Marin County Sheriff's Office** for issuing an AlertMarin to test our readiness.
- Another big thank you to **Quinn Gardner, Emergency Manager at City of San Rafael**, who helped prep our neighborhood in an informative presentation during our earlier June 30th Zoom call at: <https://baysideacres.org/home-page/baft-community-planning-meeting-on-wildfire-evacuation-drill-video-and-slides/>



**MARIN COUNTY
EVACUATED
SHERIFF**

- Did you post your Evacuation tags?
- Evacuation tags help first responders quickly identify which homes have been evacuated. Then they can focus their attention on those who still need help.
- If you put up an Evacuation tag you can lock your doors and arm your security alarms because there is no need for first responders to enter your home.
- EVACUATION TAG INSTRUCTIONS:
 1. Keep tag with string or a zip tie near your front door or with your Go-Bag.
 2. Add “install tag” to your evacuation checklist.
 3. If time allows, install tag in a visible location near the street when you evacuate.
 4. Remove and re-store tag when you return home.
- You can also get Evacuation Tags from the Marin County Sheriff’s Office, San Rafael Fire Department and the San Rafael Police Department. Any will of them will deliver the message that your home is All Clear, and no one or no pets are inside.
- Marin County Sheriff’s Office: At the moment they only have a few Evacuation Tags, but the Firewise team has asked them to order more.

What We Envisioned

The Fantasy



What Actually Happened

The Reality

Tried to load the dog, but the passenger doors were locked. Had to run back to find the key.



- 10:00 AM: AlertMarin texts from the Marin County Sheriff's Office arrive on Julia and Chris' mobile phones. Next their phones ring with a recording that this is the start of the Bayside Acres evacuation drill.
- 10:01:41 AM: Chris begins to gather and load the three Go-Bags (including Apollo's) stored in the loft.
- 10:03:07 AM: Julia harnesses and leashes a now excited Apollo. She runs out to put him in the back seat. But...the car doors are locked. "Okay, we've just failed. Chris where's your key?" Chris emerges from the house and unlocks the passenger doors. Apollo is finally loaded.
- 10:08:19 AM: All the "Want To Take" items on our "Grab and Go" list have been collected from around the house and loaded into the car. Chris reminds Julia to put the Evacuation Tag on the carport post. It's in her "Go-Bag" (which is really a carry-on suitcase). She loses valuable time unzipping the expansion zipper rather than the top of the suitcase. Too many zippers!
- 10:09:50 AM: Chris puts the security alarm on, locks the house, returns to the car. Realizes he hasn't done any tasks on the "Prepare the Home" list: "Julia I haven't done the cushions and all that s***t," he cries out. He runs back into the house to move a propane tank, outdoor furniture and cushions on the deck as far away from the house as possible.
- 10:10 AM: Finally Julia retrieves the Evacuation Tag, tears off a piece of duct tape stored with the tag. Tag is then affixed to the carport post. She goes to help Chris with the "Prepare the Home" To Dos.
- 10:13:34 AM: Chris and Julia return to the carport. Chris moves the second propane tank stored in the BBQ against the wall of the house. He then runs the tank to the side patio to place it 30' from the house.
- 10:14:05 The Doherty's come up the driveway across the road with their two cars. I mention that Chris is moving the propane tanks. Brucine goes back down their driveway to move their propane tank.
- 10:15:07 AM: Chris returns to the car and shuts the hatch tail gate; Julia jumps into the car. They give a thumbs up out the passenger windows for the benefit of the security camera. But...something's not right. The rear view camera image is at the wrong angle.
- 10:17 AM: They realize the hatch has opened. Julia's jewelry tray was too close to the door, and it is now about to fall out of the car. The jewelry tray is pushed away

- from the sensor, the hatch closed properly, and off they go.
- That took **17 minutes and 14 seconds**. Hmm!
- **What did we forget:** To put on our “Grab & Go” list to check on our neighbor who doesn’t have a car...to move the broom and paper garbage bag next to the house... my camera...Chris’ golf clubs (just kidding).



- Chris on deck removing Propane Tank #1. We push the wicker furniture back toward the railing.
- Chris in Carport removing Propane Tank #2
- We forgot the broom and the paper garbage can that you can see in the photo on the lower right.



- Alan and Wendy's car packed and ready to go in
- Brucine and Francis with their Go-Bags at the top of their driveway in 14 minutes
- Our call was parked facing the street the night before. If you know there's a chance of an Evacuation Order in your neighborhood, it is a good idea to park your car facing the street. It will also make loading the car easier.



I love this slide. I borrowed it from Vegetation Management Specialist, SRFD's **Mary Skramstad's** "1 Hour 2 Get Ready" presentation for Pt. San Pedro Rd Coalition on June 25, 2022.

- I anticipate that we can create our own after today's exercise.

Things To Consider Next Time

Further Thoughts on Preparation

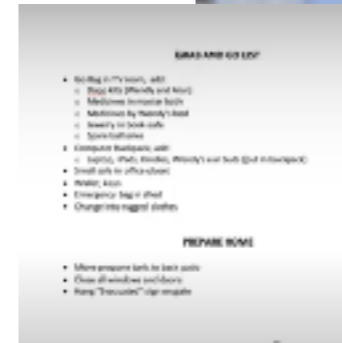
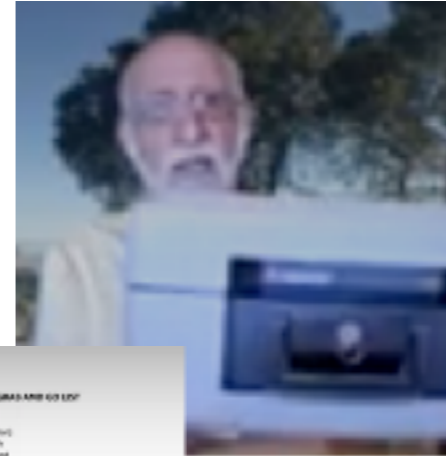
- **Car Prep** - Always keep at least a half tank in your car/s
- **Evacuation Tags** - You can pick these up at the Marin County Sheriff's office or fire stations
- **Car Safety Kit** - Store additional supplies in your car: Fire Extinguisher, jumper cables, waters, first aid kit, phone charger, flashlight, batteries, maps, N95 and gloves
- **Small Carts or Roller Suitcases** - These would make it easier to move bulky medical equipment or other items
- **Planning** - Assigning family members different tasks on your Grab & Go lists. You might also divide the list by rooms to focus on in your home.
- **Neighbors** - Are there any neighbors who need assistance? In a real emergency don't forget to tell your neighbors that you got out safely so no needs to look for you.
- **Where Will You Go?** Chicken Point/Loch Lomond Marina/San Rafael Rock Quarry? Out-of-town with relatives and friends?

Organize Your Valuables

Alan demonstrating a portable fire- and water-proof safe where he stores his important papers.

His Grab & Go List is short because he has all the essentials in his Go-Bag.

His "Prepare Home" list has 3 items:
1) Move propane tank to back patio;
2) Close all windows and doors;
3) Hang "Evacuated" sign on gate.



A safe can hold passports, spare credit cards, birth certificates, etc. It is a convenient way to contain everything in one place so you don't have to run around the house gathering your "Grab & Go" list last minute.

Note that Alan's Grab & Go list begins with instructions to pack the Go-Bags, computer and electronic devices, small safe, wallet, keys, emergency bag, and a note to change into rugged clothes.

Evacuation Routes for Bayside Acres



If Main Drive is blocked, the alternative way out is the lane adjacent to the Glenwood School that connects Main Drive to Knight Drive in Glenwood. There is a gate at this location.

SRFD emergency vehicles have keys to the locks on the two gates that block access to the alternate route.

If Bayview Drive is blocked, the alternative way out is via the driveway at 225 Bayview, which leads to Tweed Terrace in Loch Lomond. The owners will make every effort to leave the gate open for an easy exit to safety. Contact firewise@baysideacres.org for the gate code to store with your important papers.

- The gate code for alternative vehicle access at the top of Bayview Drive to Tweed Terrace in Loch Lomond is ****. Contact firewise@baysideacres.org for the number.
- There is no vehicle access possible through Bayside Marin's gates (189/191 Bayview Drive). Only foot traffic can get through to Tweed Terrace from there. The fire departments do not recommend leaving our cars to flee on foot. It is much safer to shelter in your cars on a paved road, and out from under trees if possible.
- Evacuating through the gates to the Bayview Fire Road is discouraged. The fire departments prefer to keep cars on paved roads where they are safest. Fire fighters also need unimpeded access to the fire roads for their own vehicles to get to wildfires in the open space and China Camp State Park.

What Sources of Information To Rely On

Stay Informed During An Emergency

Essential

- **Alert Marin and Nixle:** Notifications can be set up to alert you by phone, email or text. Do all three for AlertMarin
 - AlertMarin notifications are specific to your home addresses. Nixle alerts are keyed to zip codes, and may not pertain to you
- **Marin's Public Emergency Portal:** Shows AlertMarin and Nixle alerts in realtime on the Web: <https://emergency.marincounty.org>

Helpful

- **Twitter:** Follow @maringov, @marincountyfire, @marinsheriff @Cal_OES to track news, but rely on AlertMarin always
- **Radio:** KWMR, KCBS, KQED

Unreliable

- NextDoor for Evacuation Routes or Wildfire Progress
 - Wildfires can change direction at a moment's notice. Fire officials are your #1 information source.

Non-Emergency Resources...

- [FireSafeMarin.org](https://www.firesafemarin.org)
- [Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority \(MWPA\)](https://www.marinwildfirepreventionauthority.com)
- Our own neighborhood [baysideacres.org](https://www.baysideacres.org) website and the Pt. San Pedro Road Coalition's <https://sprcoalition.org> websites are packed with emergency information for our neighborhood.
- [NOAA Weather Radio](https://www.noaa.gov/weather-radio)
- [CPUC Fire-Threat Map](https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/your-work/energy-safety/fire-threat-map)
- [Zonehaven](https://www.zonehaven.com)
- Hand crank radios and battery radios to listen to these radio stations should be in your Go-Bags. Weather radios are also good. Chances are that electricity will be down, and so will cellular networks

Family Communication Emergency Plan

FEMA's Useful Printout

- Download and fill in this information for your use in an emergency
- Keep it handy



The image shows a FEMA Family Emergency Communication Plan form. At the top right, there is a green checkmark and the word "Ready". Below this, the text reads "FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY", "Family Emergency Communication Plan", and "ID# 17-001-100". The form is divided into two main sections: "CONTACT INFORMATION" and "EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION". Each section contains fields for Name, Address, Date of Birth, and other identifying information. The form is designed to be filled out by individuals to provide contact details for emergency services.

Printout is at: https://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/2021-10/family-communication-plan_fillable-card.pdf

Stay Safe Everyone!

A little preparation goes a long way!