



## Angwin Community: Get Ready. Be Ready. 2020 Wildfire “Season” is Here!

This is a quick review and reminder of some important information. For more detailed materials, see “Preparedness” and “Defensible Space” tab headings on the Angwin Fire Safe Council website at:  
<https://angwin.napafirewise.org>

### **In General:**

1. Revisit your family evacuation plans. Identify and re-confirm an out-of-area contact person for all family members.
2. Check your egress from your home to a safe location; confirm that construction is not being done on the road nor about to be done over the summer and fall months. Know alternate route(s).
3. Repack your “go-bag” for each family member, including pets. Check your food, snacks, and water for expiration dates. Check for your important papers and medications that might have been removed over the winter months. Ensure everything is current.
4. Sign up for Nixle. [nixle.com](http://nixle.com)
5. Sign up with PG&E (even if you are not an account-holder) for Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) updates: [1-866-743-6589](tel:1-866-743-6589) or [pge.com/PSPSupdates](http://pge.com/PSPSupdates). If you have medical needs affected by power outage, see [pge.com/medicalbaseline](http://pge.com/medicalbaseline).
6. Install your Napa County required “911 address” sign(s) available for a nominal price at the Angwin ACE Hardware. **Reflective address signs** help fire, medical, and emergency personnel find your home when every second counts. **Please print an Order Form** and take it with you to Angwin ACE. Order Forms are also available at the counter.
7. Check all your water sources and make sure they are clearly marked for fire response.

### **Red Flag Warning (when issued):**

NOTE: the first 2019 Red Flag Warning occurred the 1st week of June and on that night Deer Park had a small vegetation fire, thankfully contained by responders.

1. Fuel up your car. When parked at home, face car headed away from your home.
2. Unlock your gate or open your gate.

3. Detach your garage door from the automatic control mechanism.
4. Cycle and test your generator.
5. Flush your water systems, test hoses and make sure you have 100' available.
6. Clear off deck and porch of flammable materials.
7. Remove material up against your home, like brooms leaning on the wall or garbage bins.
8. Check gutters for debris.
9. Pull barbeque and propane tank 30' away from your home.
10. Close doors and windows.
11. Place your go-bag at your front door or in your car. Attach evacuation tag to go-bag.
12. Charge your phone and charge your spare battery source.
13. Have a ready-to-use and powerful LED flashlight and extra batteries.
14. Have a crank-up radio. Know how to tune in 1440 AM and 99.3 FM for emergency information. Pre-tune your car radio to these stations as well.
15. If you are pulling a trailer, check the equipment, chains and tires. Metal on pavement is a great source of sparks and we have had wildland fires that have started that way.
16. **DO NOT:** do yard work after 10 AM; use metal blade power tools on grass; park your recently operated car over dry seasonal grass; open burn (as of May 1 a permit is required).

### **Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS):**

If you are paying attention to the Red Flag action items, then you will be mostly prepared for a PSPS. That's because you can likely expect a Red Flag to be a precursor to a PSPS, with a few exceptions.

Once a PSPS goes into effect, the power can be, and likely will be, out for a few to several days. With a Red Flag, your posture should be a level of readiness should an evacuation be ordered. Your posture with a PSPS is in addition to this, having the capability to hunker down without power. To that end:

1. Check your generator; cycle and test.
2. DO NOT use long and multiple runs of extension cords to go from your generator to the utilization equipment. Each added length introduces more resistance to the cord/run, which produces more heat, and risk of fire.
3. You do not need to run your generator **24/7**. You can cycle on and off as needed during the day and turn it off at night. As long as your refrigerator is not being opened and shut, it will last 4-6 hours and as long as the temperature does not exceed 40 degrees the food is safe. Freezers will last 2-days if you do not open it.
4. NEVER pour fuel into a running generator or into one that has a hot muffler.
5. Do not assume that cell phone service will be maintained during a PSPS event. Have established ways to stay in touch with neighbors and friends.
6. If you or someone in your home is using medical equipment, be sure to register the address with PGE: [pge.com/medicalbaseline](https://www.pge.com/medicalbaseline)

## **Defensible Space Zones:**

*Ignition Zone – House to 5'*: Nothing flammable within 5' of house. Plantings that are up near the house should be fire resistant, no wood chips in flower beds, use decorative rock.

*Intermediate Zone – 5' – 25'*: *Lean, Clean & Green!* – Remove dead plants, grass and weeds. All tree branches at least 10' from your home.

*Reduced Fuel Zone – 30' – 70'*: Cut seasonal grass to no more than 4". Do your yardwork **BEFORE 10AM**. By County Ordinance, grass is to be cut by June 1.

- Create horizontal spacing of 10' between trees if on a slope of 20% or less. Increase distance between trees to 20' if on a slope of 20-40%.
- Create a distance between shrubs that are under trees and the start of the tree canopy. Tree canopies and branches should be at least 6' from grade to the start of the canopy. If there is a shrub beneath the canopy, then the distance is three x the height of the shrub to the start of the tree canopy. This is to avoid the transfer of fire from the ground, to the shrub, then to the tree.
- Use this Homeowner's Checklist to make your home fire safe inside and outside. [English](#)

## **Home Hardening:**

1. Remove debris on roof (under dormers and in roof valleys).
2. Clean gutters; consider installing gutter guards.
3. Install 3/8 – 1/2 spark arrester on chimney.
4. Use stone or gravel, not wood chips, in flower beds. Choose plants and shrubs that are fire resistant. See: [Angwin Landscape Do's and Don'ts](#) and [Angwin Landscaping Tips & Tricks](#)
5. Remove barbeque propane tanks from proximity of house by 30'.
6. Inspect your fence(s); are their branches and debris up against it? If it ignites, and it's attached to you home, fire could travel the fence line then leap to your home.
7. Install eave, crawlspace and dormer vents that are fire resistant – they provide a cut-off or obstruct flying embers from entering the vented space.
8. Remove porch/deck flammable furniture and items from proximity of your home. Also remove brooms and items that can catch an ember.
9. Move wood logs that were positioned at your home for winter use to be 30' or more away from structures.
10. Move plastic garbage bins from up against the house or put a none-flammable cover over them to preclude them being receptacles for flying embers.