

Posey Evacuation Guide

Evacuations are a serious matter and are only ordered when there is an imminent threat to human life. Emergency officials will decide the type of evacuation and the area to be evacuated.

During the initial stages of wildland fire, there will be a considerable amount of confusion. Driving will be hazardous. Roads may become clogged with people trying to get out of the area due to smoke, narrow roads, and traffic. Always yield to oncoming emergency vehicles.

Emergency Personnel may be spread very thin. It is extremely important that you have a basic knowledge of what actions to take to protect yourself and your property. The more information you have prior to the emergency, the better prepared you will be to make the correct decisions during the emergency. Remember to remain calm, use your best judgment, help each other, and follow the information in this handout as there may be periods of time when no professional help will be available to assist you.

ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What should I take with me if I need to evacuate?

Identification, money, credit cards, checkbooks, insurance records, medications and any other important documents.

Personal hygiene items, heavy bedding and clothing to be used as protection.

Cell phone, portable radio, flashlight; and if practical, jewelry and other valuables.

One gallon or more of drinking water and a shovel.

What do I do if I become trapped in a vehicle?

Don't panic, think before you act, park in an area with the least amount of flammable vegetation.

Park on the opposite side of the road from the approaching fire, don't block the road. Avoid sharp switchbacks, they generally indicate a dangerous chimney.

Stay in your vehicle with motor running at moderate RPM, air conditioner on, put blankets or heavy clothing against windows especially on the side in which the fire is approaching. Cover yourself with heavy material for protection against heat. Don't leave your vehicle until the fire has passed over.

Avoid polyesters, rayons, and other flammable material.

What do I do if I become trapped while on foot?

Go to an area with the least amount of vegetation, such as a stream, creek, lake or pond, rock outcropping, grazed off areas, log deck or clear cut area rather than brush.

Take advantage of trees, rocks, and low lying areas to shield yourself from the heat. Cover all exposed skin. A shovel held in front of face may help shield heat.

If you have time try, to clear an area around you of grass and flammables.

Stay close to the ground while protecting your face especially your mouth and nose, place a dry cloth over your mouth and nose to provide some protection to your respiratory system.

Fire burns quickly uphill, run laterally or downhill to escape.

What if I have no chance and have to run through the fire?

Put on as much flame resistant clothing as possible. Roll down your sleeves; hold your breath and protect your face.

Run laterally or downhill through the least amount of fire, run until completely out of the fire. Once out of the fire, extinguish burning clothing by removing or rolling on the ground.

What do I do when I get to an assembly area?

Remain calm and wait for instructions from fire or law enforcement officials

Conditions in the assembly area may seem extreme, but will be better than the surrounding areas.

Remember to drive safely with the headlights on, watch for fire equipment and other evacuees, expect smokey conditions, which may obscure your vision and breathing.

When the fire gets close to the assembly area you will notice increased winds, heavy smoke and swirling firebrands. Remain calm, stay in place, talk to and encourage each other.

Be prepared to put out all spot fires within the assembly area.

How can I protect my home from a wildfire?

Have a minimum of 30' or more clearance around your home, as the law requires.

Close all doors and windows (inside and out). Turn off gas or propane, move all flammables away from windows and close heavy drapes. Leave water on.

Remove flammables from exterior of house. Cover structural openings, windows and vents with plywood. Place a ladder against roof for quick access.

Connect all garden hoses. Wet down roof and exterior of home, if time permits.

What to do with pets and livestock?

Take pets with you if feasible; if not, leave them outside NOT tied up or penned.

Let livestock out of pens or fenced areas so they can fend for themselves. Have a predetermined safe area such as pasture to take livestock to. Large animals have proven to be quite resourceful in staying out of harm's way. Contact the Tulare County Animal Control (559) 636-3647 for further information.



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1 0 1 2 Miles



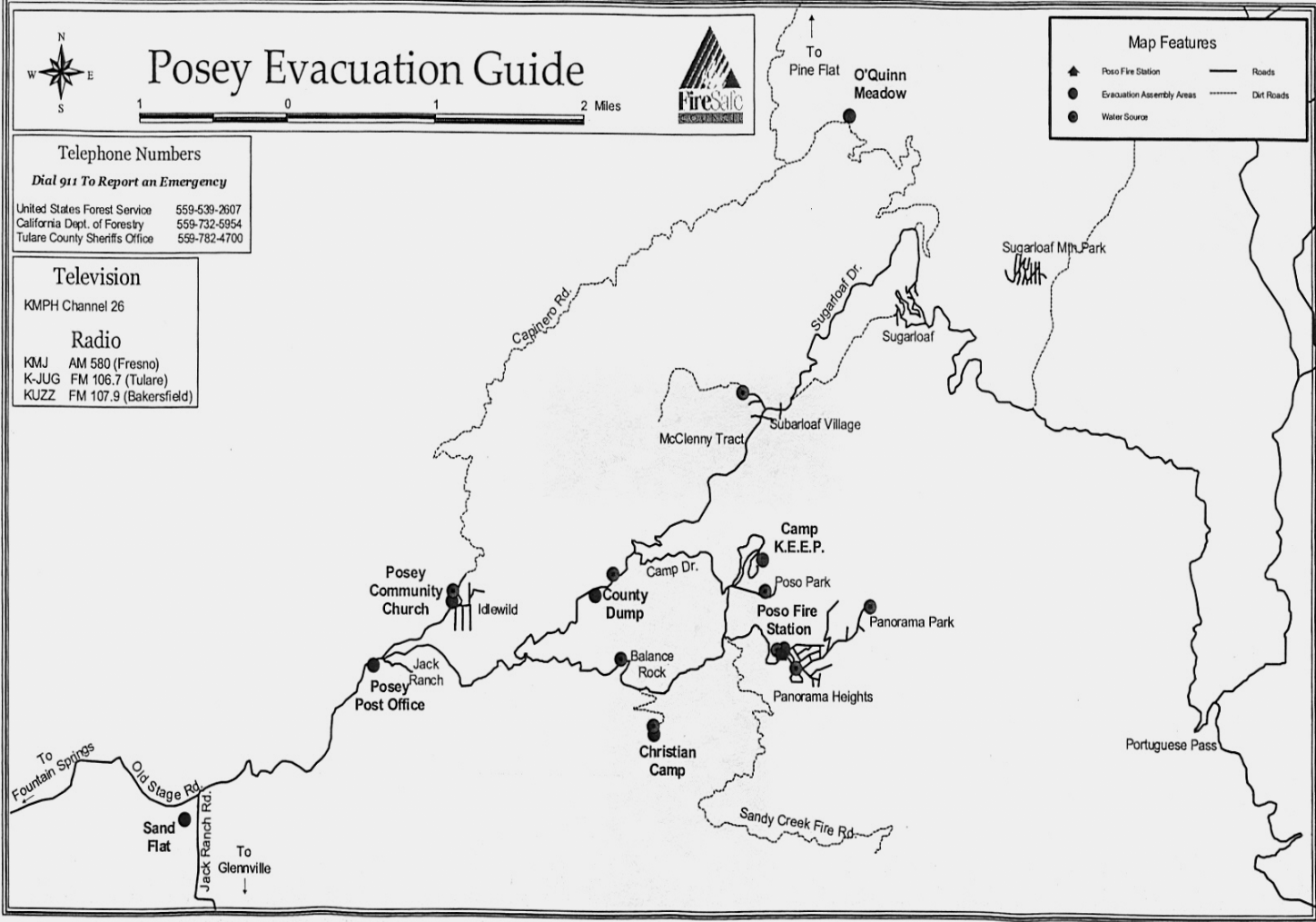
Map Features

- Poso Fire Station
- Evacuation Assembly Areas
- Water Source
- Roads
- Dirt Roads

Telephone Numbers
Dial 911 To Report an Emergency
 United States Forest Service 559-539-2607
 California Dept. of Forestry 559-732-5954
 Tulare County Sheriffs Office 559-782-4700

Television
 KMPH Channel 26

Radio
 KMJ AM 580 (Fresno)
 K-JUG FM 106.7 (Tulare)
 KUZZ FM 107.9 (Bakersfield)



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