



Hiddenbrooke Community – Disaster Preparedness Plan

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Hiddenbrooke Evacuation Plan

Plan to Evacuate

A wide variety of emergencies may cause an evacuation. In some instances, you may have a day or two to prepare, while other situations might call for an immediate evacuation. Planning ahead is vital to ensuring that you can evacuate quickly and safely, no matter what the circumstances are. It is highly recommended to prepare and plan for an evacuation long before the need for an evacuation occurs. In the Bay Area, there is the threat of earthquakes and wildfires. As was the case with the Atlas fire, it started in the middle of the night, and most residents did not have time to pack or ready for an evacuation. It is very important to plan for the unexpected, have your “go-bag” ready and other evacuation supplies ready in the garage to be added to your vehicle quickly if you need to evacuate immediately.

Hiddenbrooke Evacuation

There is only one route out of Hiddenbrooke and that is using Hiddenbrooke Parkway out to the freeway. In response to the many questions from residents regarding St John’s Mine Road and its possible use as an evacuation route, HPOA representatives met with the Vallejo Fire Department in April 2019 to discuss this issue. The Fire Department stated that the road MUST remain open for use by the Fire Department to bring firefighting equipment into Hiddenbrooke if needed to fight a wildfire in the area, and it would not be available as an exit route for Hiddenbrooke residents.

If an earthquake, sinkhole or other type of event closed the Parkway, the protocol would be for the City agencies to get together to determine how best to use St John’s Mine Road for ingress/egress by Hiddenbrooke residents and to manage traffic. In an emergency, residents should not attempt to open the gates at St John’s Mine Road on their own for cars to exit as this could compound problems for the emergency responders.

During a mass evacuation, the Parkway would operate with two lanes available for exiting residents and two lanes available for Police and Fire emergency equipment to come into Hiddenbrooke.

Law Enforcement would direct traffic at the freeway interchange, however, there could still be bottlenecks at the Interchange. **It is highly recommended to evacuate when told we are on standby or even before.** Once told of the potential for evacuation, it is recommended to leave at that time and not wait for mandatory evacuation.

If all residents wait until mandatory evacuation, it may create a traffic jam that could take hours to clear. During the Paradise fire, it took residents several hours to drive just a few miles. Please consider evacuation sooner rather than later.

Here is a list of other suggestions during a natural disaster crisis in or near our community.

Red Cross may book the surrounding hotels and motels near the disaster area. If you wait to evacuate, you may not be able to book a room in time. If you evacuate early to avoid a traffic jam in the community, you may be able to successfully book a room sooner. You may be able to get gas before there are long lines, and you may avoid traffic on major streets. During a disaster, roads become congested and could shut down for emergency vehicles only. It is also advised when evacuating from Hiddenbrooke to try and take only one vehicle, less vehicles on the road equal less congestion.

It may also be a good idea for families that have other family members that live in Hiddenbrooke to take their families with them much like carpool. Having gas storage is also a good idea. Once a natural disaster occurs, gas stations maybe inoperable due to power outages or have extremely long lines. Having your own supply of gas can come in handy. Remember, if you store gas for longer than a year, you will need to mix in a fuel additive. Rotating your gas storage is a recommended idea.

Before an Evacuation

- Consider the types of disasters that are likely in our community and the local emergency, evacuation, and shelter plans for each specific disaster. In Hiddenbrooke, the two most likely disasters would be an earthquake or wildfire.
- Plan how you will leave and where you will go if you are advised to evacuate. (<http://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan>)

- Identify several places you could go in an emergency such as a friend's home in another town or a hotel/motel. Choose destinations in different directions so that you have options during an emergency.
- If needed, identify a place that will accept pets. (<https://www.ready.gov/pets>) Most public shelters allow only service animals.
- Be familiar with alternate routes such as Hwy 80, or local roads in both directions. Keep a road atlas or map with you as you may not have internet connection.
- Always follow the instructions of local officials and remember that your evacuation route may be on foot depending on the type of disaster.
- Develop a family/household communication and re-unification plan so that you can maintain contact and take the best action for each of you to re-unite if you are separated. ***See the make a plan link above.
- Assemble supplies that are ready for evacuation. Both a "go-bag" that you can carry when you evacuate on foot or by vehicle (backpacks are good "go-bags") and other supplies for traveling longer distances if you have a personal vehicle. See the **Evacuation Survival Kit** later in this document.
- If you have a car/truck/van, keep a full tank of gas in it if an evacuation seems likely. Keep a half tank of gas in it at all times in case of an unexpected need to evacuate. Gas stations maybe closed during emergencies and unable to pump gas during power outages. If possible, having extra gas stored in gas cans is recommended. Plan to take one car per family to reduce congestion and delay.
- Make sure you have portable emergency kit in the car. (<http://www.ready.gov/car>)

During an Evacuation

- A list of open shelters can be found during an active disaster in your local area by downloading the FEMA app. (<http://fema.gov/mobile-app>) It's highly suggested you download the app before there is a disaster as internet service may not work or a weak signal.

- Consider a battery powered radio and follow local evacuation instructions.
- Take your emergency supply kit with you. See the Evacuation Survival Kit at the end of this document.
- Leave early enough to avoid being trapped by severe weather, road closures or traffic congestion.
- Take your pets with you but understand that only service animals may be permitted in public shelters. Plan how you will care for your pets in an emergency now. (<http://www.ready.gov/animals>)
- If time allows:
 - Call or email the out-of-state contact in your family communication plan. Tell them where you are going.
 - Secure your home by closing and locking doors and windows.
 - Unplug electrical equipment such as radios, televisions and small appliances. Leave freezers and refrigerators plugged in. If there is damage to your home and you are instructed to do so, shut off water, gas and electricity before leaving. *Know how to do these things before an emergency.*
 - Leave a note telling others when you left and where you are going.
 - Wear sturdy shoes and clothing that provide some protection such as long pants, long-sleeved shirts and a hat.
 - Check with neighbors who may need a ride (if able).
- Follow recommended evacuation routes. Do not take shortcuts; they may be blocked.
- Be alert for road hazards such as washed-out roads or bridges and downed power- lines. Do not drive into flooded areas. **Do not try to leave via St. John's road, it is not in usable condition!**

After an Evacuation

If you've evacuated for an earthquake or wildfire, check with local officials both where you're staying and back home before you travel.

- Residents returning to disaster-affected areas after significant events should expect and prepare for disruptions to daily activities and remember that returning home before disaster debris is cleared may be dangerous.

- Let friends and family know before you leave and when you arrive.
- Charge devices and consider getting back-up batteries or solar chargers in case power-outages continue.
- Fill up your gas tank and consider downloading a fuel app to check for outages along your route.
- The Google Maps App will show you where gas stations are located as well as food locations and medical facilities.
- Bring supplies such as water and non-perishable food for the car ride.
- Avoid downed power or utility lines; they may be live with deadly voltage. Stay away and report them immediately to your power or utility company.
- Only use generators away from your home and NEVER run a generator inside a home or garage or connect it to your homes electrical system.

Prepare for a Wildfire

Pre-Evacuation Preparation Steps

When an evacuation is anticipated, follow these checklists (if time allows) to give your home the best chance of surviving a wildfire.

Home Evacuation checklist – How to Prepare for Evacuation: Inside the House

- Shut all windows and doors, leaving them unlocked (Wildfire only).
- Remove flammable window shades, curtains and close metal shutters.
- Remove lightweight curtains.
- Move flammable furniture to the center of the room, away from windows and doors.
- Shut off gas at the meter; turn off pilot lights.
- Leave your lights on so firefighters can see your house under smoky conditions.
- Shut off all air conditioning.

Outside the House

- Gather up flammable items from the exterior of the house and bring them inside (patio furniture, children's toys, door mats, trash cans, etc.) or place them in your pool.
- Turn off propane tanks.
- Move propane BBQ appliances away from structures.
- Connect garden hoses to outside water valves or spigots for use by firefighters. Fill water buckets and place them around the house.
- Don't leave sprinklers on or water running, they can affect water pressure.
- Leave exterior lights on so your home is visible to firefighters in the smoke or darkness of night.
- Put your Emergency Supply Kit in your vehicle.
- Back your car into the driveway with vehicle loaded and all doors and windows closed. Carry your car keys with you.
- Have a ladder available and place it at the corner of the house for firefighters to quickly access your roof.
- Seal attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or commercial seals.
- Patrol your property and monitor the fire situation. Don't wait for an evacuation order if you feel threatened. This is especially true in Hiddenbrooke, it's best to avoid traffic congestion by leaving Hiddenbrooke early.
- Check on your neighbors and make sure they are preparing to leave.
- Locate your pets and keep them nearby.

Take Action Immediately when a Wildfire Strikes

When immediate evacuation is necessary, follow these steps as soon as possible to get ready to GO!

Evacuation: What to Take and Do:

1. Review your Evacuation Plan Checklist
2. Ensure your Emergency Supply Kit and "Go-Bag" are in your vehicle.
3. Cover-up to protect against heat and flying embers. Wear long pants, long sleeved shirt, heavy shoes/boots, cap, dry bandanna for face cover, goggles or glasses. 100% cotton is preferable.

4. Locate your pets and take them with you. Plan for their food, water, blankets, toys etc. They have to be comfortable too.

When to Evacuate

Leave as soon as evacuation is recommended by fire officials to avoid being caught in fire, smoke or road congestion. Leaving before evacuation is required is actually recommended in Hiddenbrooke.

Since there is only one way out, avoid traffic congestion by leaving early and head to your safe location. Don't wait to be ordered out by authorities to leave.

Evacuating the fire area early also helps firefighters keep roads clear of congestion and lets them move more freely to do their jobs. In an intense wildfire, they will not have time to knock on every door. **If you are advised to leave, don't hesitate!**

- Officials will determine the areas to be evacuated and escape routes to use depending upon the fire's location, behavior, winds, terrain, etc.
- Law enforcement agencies are typically responsible for enforcing an evacuation order. Follow their directions promptly!
- You will be advised of potential evacuations as early as possible. You must take initiative to stay informed and aware. Listen to your radio/TV for announcements from law enforcement and emergency personnel.
- You may be directed to temporary assembly areas to await transfer to a safe location.

The terms "Voluntary" and "Mandatory" are used to describe evacuation orders. However, local jurisdictions may use other terminology such as "precautionary" and "Immediate Threat". These terms are used to alert you to the significance of the danger. All evacuation instructions provided by officials should be followed immediately for your safety.

Do not return to your home until fire officials determine it is safe. Notification that it is safe to return home will be given as soon as possible considering safety and accessibility.

When You Return Home:

- Be alert for downed power lines and other hazards.
- Check propane tanks, regulators, and lines before turning gas on.
- Check your residence carefully for hidden embers or smoldering fires.

What Do I Do AFTER an Earthquake?

Wear Sturdy Shoes

- To avoid injury from broken glass and debris. Expect aftershocks.

Check for Injuries

- If a person is bleeding, put direct pressure on the wound, use clean gauze or cloth if available.
- If a person is not breathing administer CPR and notify 9-1-1.
- DO NOT attempt to move a seriously injured persons unless they are in further danger of injury.
- COVER injured persons with blankets to keep warm.
- SEEK medical help for serious injuries.

Check for Hazards

- Fire hazards – put out fires in your home or neighborhood immediately, call for help.
- Gas leaks – Shut off main gas valve ONLY if you suspect a leak because of broken pipes or odor.
- Damaged electrical wiring- Shut off power at the control box if there is any danger to house wiring.
- Downed or damaged utility lines – do not touch downed power lines or any objects in contact with them.
- SPILLS – Clean up any spilled medicines, drugs, or other harmful materials such as bleach, lye, gas.
- DOWNED OR DAMAGED CHIMNEYS – Approach with caution – don't use damaged chimney (it could start a fire or let poisonous gases into your house).
- FALLEN ITEMS – beware of items tumbling off shelves when you open doors of closets and cupboards.
- CHECK FOOD AND WATER SUPPLIES – Do not eat or drink anything from open containers near shattered glass.

- If power is off, plan meals to use up foods that will spoil quickly or frozen foods (food in the freezer should be good for at least a couple of days).
- Don't light your kitchen stove if you suspect a gas leak.
- USE BBQ or camp stoves, outdoors only for emergency cooking.
- If your water is off you can drink supplies from water heaters, melted ice cubes or canned vegetables (AVOID drinking water from swimming pools or especially spas – it may have too many chemicals in it to be safe).

Evacuation Survival Kit

At minimum, you should have the supplies listed below:

- Water: one gallon per person, per day (3-day supply for evacuation)
- Food: Non-perishable, easy to prepare items (3-day supply for evacuation)
- Gas for your vehicle – Store extra gas at home as gas stations maybe closed or have long lines (Remember, Gas can go bad after a month, so frequent changing is recommended. No more than 5 gallons should be stored.)
- Flashlights or torches (small, strong flashlights)
- Extra batteries for electronic devices
- Battery powered or hand-crank transistor radio or NOAA weather radio preferred
- First Aid Kit
- Personal medications and medical items for a week+
- Multi-purpose tool, tool box
- Sanitation and personal hygiene items – toothpaste and brush, deodorant, etc.
- Copies of personal documents (medication list and pertinent medical information, proof of address, deed/lease to home, passports, birth certificates, wedding certificates, insurance policies, etc.)
- Cell Phone, tablet, chargers and solar chargers for power outages
- Family and emergency contact information
- Cash
- Emergency blankets
- Maps or road atlas if electronic maps aren't active

- Medical supplies – Band-aids, Neosporin, medical tape, first aid kit
- Baby supplies
- Games and activities for kids
- Pet Supplies – Food, collar, leash, Pet ID, carrier, bowls
- Two-way radios (Walkie Talkies)
- Extra set of house keys and car keys
- Manual can opener for canned food
- Whistle
- N95 or surgical masks
- Matches
- Rain gear
- Towels
- Work gloves
- Extra clothing, hat and sturdy shoes
- Eye glasses, contacts, sunglasses, and eye protection
- Plastic sheeting, tarp or tent
- Duct tape
- Scissors
- Household liquid bleach
- Blankets, sleeping bags and emergency thermal blankets

****It's a good idea to have personal items prepacked in a "go bag" so you can grab and go quickly. Also, the items more associated with camping or outdoor protection can be stored in your garage near your car so it's easy to transfer directly into your car quickly. ****

Personal items to take only if time allows:

- Easily carried valuables
- Family photos and other irreplaceable items: wedding book, jewelry, etc.
- Personal computer, hard drives, external drives, thumb drives and memory cards
- Chargers (solar) for cell phones, tablets, laptops, etc.
- Clothes and shoes
- Personal heirlooms
- Family DVDs of photos or home movies
- Add any item you deem valuable, that will fit in your vehicle

Recommended Apps for phones and devices and other resources

It's recommended to download these apps before an emergency as power and internet maybe out or intermittent.

- FEMA app
- American Red Cross apps
- Disaster Alert app
- Zello (a walkie talkie app)
- Life 360 app
- GasBuddy app
- www.511.org
- www.fire.ca.gov

Family Emergency Communication Plan (FECP)

In the event of an emergency all household members should know how to reach each other and where to meet up. Use the following steps to develop your own *Family Emergency Communication Plan* (FECP)

1. Write down phone numbers and email addresses for everyone in your home, making sure everyone knows each other's.
2. Know the emergency response plan of the school your child attends.
3. Identify someone outside of the community or State who can act as a central point of contact to help your household reconnect.
4. Decide on safe, familiar places where your family can go for protection or to reunite:
 - a. *In the neighborhood*: This is a place where your family will meet if the emergency is localized, and neighborhood evacuation is not required.
 - b. *Outside the neighborhood*: This is a place to meet if evacuation is required, or, you are not at home when the emergency strikes.
 - c. *Outside of your town or city*: An out-of-town meeting place can help if:
 - i. You cannot get home or to your out-of-neighborhood meeting place; or
 - ii. Your family is not together, and the community is instructed to evacuate the area.

- d. Write down numbers of emergency services, utilities, service providers, medical providers, veterinarians, insurance companies, and other services.
5. Make sure everyone is familiar the FECP and keep a “card-copy” with them. Discuss the plan. Add to it if someone thinks of something that should be included. Practice the plan.

Your *Family Emergency Communication Plan* should work for you!

Family and Home Preparedness

In the unfortunate event that an emergency happens it is very important that you and your family are prepared for the worst-case scenario. Even though this situation will be scary, it is very important that you discuss the plans-of-action with your family.

Where do I start?

Start by making a simple plan and practicing it. Practice that develops into muscle memory does wonders when the real thing happens.

Example:

- In the event of an emergency where do we meet if we are at different locations? This can be a school, a relative’s house, or your favorite store at a mall. If you have kids, it is extremely important that they understand where to go, or who to contact in the event of an emergency. Also, you should designate someone to pick up your children now, not later.
 - Create a plan of egress from your home such as the front door, the back door(s), the garage, etc.
- Write down everyone who will need to be contacted in an emergency. Keep this with your emergency preparedness kit.
 - Example: Teachers, other family members, students, work, place of worship, and friends, etc. This is *extremely* important in the event you are separated.
- Pets – have a game plan for them too. Our furry friends will surely be in a panic when an emergency happens. Be sure you have space for them and a plan of egress.

What supplies should I have?

- Water – this goes without saying. You can not survive without it. Be sure to have enough for your whole family. E.g. 3-5 gallons.

- Invest in a mobile water purification system. (can be found online for a reasonable amount)
- Food – Store enough non-perishable items for your whole family. Consider foods that do not require cooking and are easily transportable. If you have children, store their favorite snacks. This may help them calm their nerves during this time.
- First Aid and Medication – Make sure that you have a list of medications for those in your family and stock this in the event of an emergency. The worst situation here is if your family member is in dire need of medication but are unable to get it. EMS and other 911 services will be extremely delayed. Purchase a First Aid Kit online and build it out. A good basic first aid kit should include bandages, scissors, tweezers, burn gel, anti-bacterial ointment, etc. There are plenty of them available on the internet, but it is very important that you build it to match your needs.
- Maintaining Shelter and Warmth – Consider purchase foil blankets, a tent, or anything that can keep you warm and dry during an emergency.
- Contact – Flashlights, headlights, or any light source are a good idea – but they must be battery powered or hand powered. They can help you find your way and help others find you. Consider throwing a whistle into your supplies as well.
- Other misc. items – Shovels, duct tape, backpacks, cash, photos of important docs, IDs, contact information for others, extra batteries, lanterns, axes, map, extra clothes, toys for the kids, paper and pen. The list goes on – tailor it to your specific needs.

In Closing

The most important thing you can do here is **BE PREPARED**. Have a family member take a CPR/AED class or other life-saving courses. Practice your plan quarterly – it sounds boring and cumbersome but having this in mind now will save lives when it happens. Consider the worst-case scenario when practicing. Pretend you have no car, no electricity, and think about how your family can overcome this obstacle and remain safe.

Think **SAFE**

Set up a game plan
Assess your needs
Figure out your goals
Exercise your plan

C.E.R.T. (Community Emergency Response Team)

If you have the desire to help others, consider training and joining the Vallejo C.E.R.T. (CERT.Vallejo.CA@gmail.com)

Following a major disaster, first responders who provide fire and medical services will not be able to meet the demand for these services. Factors such as number of victims, communication failures and road blockages will prevent people from accessing emergency services they have come to expect at a moment's notice through 911. People will have to rely on each other for help in order to meet their immediate lifesaving and life sustaining needs.

CERT is designed as a neighborhood-based program. It enables neighborhoods to assess and help themselves until the fire department can arrive. CERT lightens the load on all emergency responders, hospitals.

CERT provides a group of trained people to be used in a number of ways when assigned: volunteers set up and staff shelters for evacuees, fill sandbags, contact neighbors during heat/cold emergencies, and provide outreach into community, etc.

To date there are over 175 Citizen Volunteers trained. Students receive 28 hours of training. Upon completion of the course graduates receive a backpack for CERT response. The program follows a national curriculum developed by FEMA. The six-week program is designed to provide the individuals with the basic skills that they will use to respond to their community's immediate needs in the aftermath of a disaster

Please contact Shirley.Herbert@cityofvallejo.net if you are interested or want to be placed on a waiting list for CERT classes.

Please contact CERT.Vallejo.CA@gmail.com for additional information.