

Red Flag Warning indicates higher wildfire risk

A Red Flag Warning, often issued for the East Bay Hills and much of the East Bay, means that hills residents need to be ready to evacuate and should take precautions to stop fires before they start.

The Red Flag Warning is usually announced by the National Weather Service for a specific period of time.

Fires that start during Red Flag Warnings can spread quickly. Use **extreme caution** when operating BBQs, power equipment, or other heat sources such as idling cars. Remember that fireworks are always completely forbidden in Contra Costa County and surrounding areas. These steps can help prevent fires.

Wildfires are now more frequent, destructive, and fast-moving than ever. Residents must change how to prepare and respond. **Take control** before a fire starts:

- Leave your phone on to receive alerts even if you are sleeping, or activate your [Emergency Bypass settings](#).
- Know your evacuation zone and ensure you can receive messages issued through [CWS](#) and [Nixle](#).
- Put your [Go Bag](#) by the front door, or place it in your vehicle.
- Plan multiple evacuation routes, including two by foot, if roads become too congested.
- Park off-street. Back your car into your driveway or garage, leaving streets clear for emergency vehicles.
- Be sure you can open your garage if the power goes out and keep pets close.
- Red Flag Warnings are not as severe or as rare as "Extreme Fire Weather" days, a narrow range of weather conditions underlying many of California's most destructive fires.

Late evacuation contributes to traffic jams and puts you, your neighbors, and first responders at risk. Leaving early increases your chance of survival. Preparing in advance puts you in the most control and is the best way to ensure your safety.