



Wildfire Toolkit

SERIOUS ABOUT FIRE SAFETY

First and foremost, the Tuolumne County Sheriff's Department and the Office of Emergency Services are the key sources for official information, evacuation orders, and updates during a wildfire or other emergency. Please see the [Resources section](#) on page 5 for ways to connect. [Sign up on Everbridge](#) to receive emergency alerts delivered to your phone, email.

Caring for Tuolumne County can only be done together. It's the only sure way to preserve this beautiful area and prevent the very real devastation that comes from wildfires. For the safety of all concerned, please keep these fire safety tips in mind when visiting the area, also available in an easy to download [infographic](#):

- 1) Make sure your chains are safely stowed and not dragging from your vehicle. Sparks from chains are perhaps the county's most significant wildfire risk.
- 2) Don't park a vehicle over dry grass. The heat from your car could easily start a fire.
- 3) Only have campfires in designated areas and know the regulations for your location. If you're not sure, please refrain from starting a campfire.
- 4) Properly extinguish campfires by drenching them in water. Even if a campfire looks extinguished, there could be embers. Use the "drown, stir and feel" method.
- 5) Keep wind conditions in mind before having a campfire. It may be too windy to safely start one.
- 6) Don't burn food or trash in a campfire. It's an unnecessary risk that can easily be avoided.
- 7) Discard cigarettes and cigarette butts properly.
- 8) Watch air quality and prescribed fire information at tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/364/Air-Pollution-Control-District.
- 9) Get a campfire permit online at permit.preventwildfiresca.org or from a CAL FIRE, U.S. Forest Service or BLM station if necessary.



Download the infographic to share with guests and visitors.

You can also view and share the [Emergency Preparedness Video](#) providing important information from the Office of Emergency Services, Tuolumne County Sheriffs, CalFire Unit and County Fire Chief and Stanislaus National Forest.



PUBLIC RELATIONS

CRISIS COMMUNICATION PLAN

Visit Tuolumne County has established a comprehensive Crisis Communication Plan to guide public information efforts should a wildfire or other crisis event ever occur within the destination. The purpose of the Crisis Communication Plan is to provide accurate, timely and appropriate tourism-related information to VTC stakeholders and the general public in times of crisis and incidents, including wildfires, in and/or near Tuolumne County, which have the potential to impact tourism negatively.

The full Crisis Communication Plan includes a list of key contacts, a step-by-step response plan, messaging templates, talking points and more. The Crisis Communication Plan is available to VTC stakeholders as a resource. For more information, please contact Lisa Mayo at lisa@gotuolumne.com or Katie Kirkland at katie@gotuolumne.com.

TALKING POINTS

Should visitors or customers reach out to you directly, here are a few talking points to help educate them on wildfire safety:

WHAT VISITORS SHOULD KNOW

- Tuolumne County is a safe destination with an abundance of experiences to enjoy year-round.
- Warm, dry late-summer and fall conditions make for a beautiful experience in Tuolumne County, but also pose a higher risk for potential wildfires, a natural occurrence up and down the West Coast and many other parts of the world.
- Fires may occur across the county and state, and predominantly break out in remote, forested areas away from population centers.
- It is not uncommon for multiple wildfires to be burning simultaneously in California, with little to no disruption of most residents' daily lives and visitors' experiences. However, travelers should always be aware of their surroundings and follow the direction of county and state officials.
- It is unusual for California wildfires to result in damage to tourism infrastructure - leaving the visitor experience largely intact.
- Fire season typically includes occasional temporary public safety power shutoffs (PSPS) within the county on extremely warm, windy days to reduce the risk of sparking a fire caused by power lines. Residents and visitors are typically notified 48 hours in advance by PG&E through phone, text alerts and emails prior to power shutoffs. We encourage all visitors to carry a portable phone charger.
- Unplanned and sudden power outages may occur due to PG&E's Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings (EPSS), which allow powerlines to automatically turn off power within one-tenth of a second when there is a hazard, like a tree branch falling into a line.
- When wildfires are burning, air quality can suffer in communities that are not directly affected by these fires. Visitors that may be sensitive to air quality impacts should determine ahead of time if smoke levels could impact their travel experience.

- [Tuolumne County's Fire Information Map](#) is updated in real-time when there is an event and includes fire location, evacuation areas and road closures.
- Travelers in Tuolumne County should:
 - [Sign up for emergency alerts](#) and bookmark the [CAL FIRE incidents page](#) to refer to the map while in Tuolumne County.
 - Follow the local [County Evacuation Pamphlet](#).
 - Be sure to keep a half-tank of gas and some emergency provisions on hand.
 - Before traveling, research areas on their itinerary – it may be possible to easily reroute a trip to a nearby destination in the case of interruption by fire-related effects.
 - Consult local weather and air-quality forecasts, as well as looking for any alerts (Red Flag Warnings, Fire Weather Watch) and possible temporary closures (roads, parks, forests).
 - Check air quality and prescribed fire information at tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/364/Air-Pollution-Control-District.

RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL TIPS

Experiencing the spectacular outdoors and authentic California history are the main reasons visitors make their way to Tuolumne County. Enjoying all that the area has to offer comes with the responsibility to be safe and good stewards.

- We ask visitors to practice extreme caution during dry conditions and to follow all laws regarding open fires, as well as have an emergency plan and follow any evacuation orders.
- Make sure that nothing is dragging from your vehicle, particularly when towing. Never pull onto dry grass or vegetation.
- On mountain roads GPS is not always correct, please carry a map and/or plan your trip out ahead of time.
- Campfires:
 - Get a campfire permit online at www.permit.preventwildfiresca.org or from a CAL FIRE, U.S. Forest Service or BLM station if necessary.
 - Keep your campfire small, have a 10-foot clearance around it and don't leave it unattended.
 - Make sure you completely extinguish your fire using the "drown, stir and feel" method.
- BBQ/Fireplace
 - Ensure there is 10 feet of clearance around your BBQ.
 - Dispose of ash in a metal container with a lid away from any flammable materials.
 - Ashes may take several days to cool completely in the can. Do not discard them until they are cool enough to touch.
- Target Shooting
 - Shoot in areas free of vegetation.
 - Use safe targets, such as paper or clay pigeons, as steel targets or rocks may throw sparks into nearby vegetation.
 - Have a shovel and fire extinguisher on hand in case a fire does spark.

RESOURCES

PUBLIC INFORMATION LINE (AVAILABLE IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY)

209-533-5151

HAVE A "GO BAG" READY

Watch the video from Tuolumne County Office of Emergency Services: youtu.be/61uotzqki3y

TUOLUMNE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

209-533-5855

28 N. Lower Sunset Dr., Sonora, CA 95370

- Website: www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/341/Sheriffs-Office
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/tuolumnecountysheriff
- Twitter: www.twitter.com/tuolumnesherriff

TUOLUMNE COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

209-533-5511

2 S. Green St., Sonora, CA 95370

- Website:
 - Emergency Services: www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/308/Office-of-Emergency-Services
 - Emergency Alerts: tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/1170/Emergency-Alerts
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/TuolumneCountyOES

CAL FIRE TUOLUMNE-CALAVERAS UNIT

209- 754-3831

785 Mountain Ranch Rd., San Andreas, CA 95249

- Website:
 - Home Page: www.fire.ca.gov
 - Wildfire Resources: www.readyforwildfire.org
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/CALFIRETCU
- Twitter: www.twitter.com/CALFIRETCU

TUOLUMNE COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

209-533-5118

18440 Striker Ct., Sonora, CA 95370

- Website:
 - Home Page: www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/1473/Fire-Department
 - Find Your Fire Station: www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/832/Find-Your-Fire-Station
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/category/Fire-Station/Tuolumne-County-Fire-Department-2180612105600021
- Instagram: www.instagram.com/tuolumnecountyfire

CITY OF SONORA POLICE DEPARTMENT

209- 532-8143

100 S. Green St., Sonora, CA 95370

- Website: www.sonorapd.com
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/sonorapolicedepartment

CITY OF SONORA FIRE DEPARTMENT

209-754-1187

201 S. Shepherd St., Sonora, CA 95370

- Website: www.sonoraca.com/city-services/departments/fire-department
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Sonora-City-Fire-Department/176418059041631

STANISLAUS NATIONAL FOREST

Headquarters: 209-532-3671

19777 Greenley Rd., Sonora, CA 95370

- Website:
 - Home Page: www.fs.usda.gov/main/stanislaus/home
 - Alerts: www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/stanislaus
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/StanislausNF

Summit Ranger Station (HWY 108): 209-964-3434

#1 Pinecrest Lake Rd., Pinecrest, CA 95364

Groveland Ranger Station (HWY 120): 209-962-6406

24545 Highway 120, Groveland, CA 95321

VISIT TUOLUMNE COUNTY

209-533-4420

193 S. Washington St., Sonora, CA 95370

- Website:
 - Home Page: www.visittuolumne.com
 - Travel Alerts: www.visittuolumne.com/travel-alert
 - We do our best to provide the most current and accurate information as quickly as possible, so please check back often. The [Tuolumne County Sheriff's Department](#) and [Office of Emergency Services](#) are the official sources of information during an emergency.
 - Easily accessible at the top of the [home page](#), it contains information about current incidents.
 - Safety and Stewardship: www.visittuolumne.com/safety-and-stewardship
 - Includes phone numbers, social media channels to follow, and other information for visitors to prepare for emergencies all in one place.
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/TuolumneCounty