READY HOUSE: WILDFIRE & SMOKE

QUICK REFERENCE • FRONT • CASCADIA READY RADIO

LEAVE EARLY

Most wildfire deaths happen in late evacuations. You don't need an order to leave. Go at the first warning.

- A small town can take **2 hours or more** to evacuate. Leaving early keeps you off a jammed road.
- **Never drive toward a fire.** In heavy smoke, slow down and keep moving along your planned route.

BEFORE FIRE SEASON

- Clear the **0–5 foot zone** around your house of anything that burns: mulch, dead leaves, stuff under the deck.
- Know your **evacuation zone name** and sign up for county alerts.
- Keep the tank **half full** and the go-bag **by the door**.
- One **N95 respirator** per person.

IF YOU HAVE TIME BEFORE LEAVING

- Close all windows, doors and vents, and the doors inside the house.
- Move flammable things away from the house.
- Leave outside lights on so firefighters can see the house in the smoke.

SMOKE AT HOME: MAKE A CLEAN ROOM

- Check the **Air Quality Index at AirNow.gov**. Over **150** is unhealthy for **everyone**.
- Pick one room, close it up, and run a **HEPA air purifier** nonstop. It can cut indoor smoke particles **50–80%**.
- Set the furnace or AC to **recirculate**, with a **MERV 13** filter or better if it fits.
- Skip **candles, gas cooking, aerosol sprays and vacuuming** in that room.

From *The Ready House Bible* by Charlie Ramsey, Sections 13 & 15

MASKS, RETURNING & YOUR PLAN

READY HOUSE: WILDFIRE & SMOKE • BACK

MASKS THAT WORK

- **Cloth and surgical masks don't filter smoke.**
- Use a **NIOSH-approved N95** that fits snugly.
- It won't seal over a **beard**.

GOING BACK HOME

- Wait for official **re-entry clearance**. Hot ash pockets can burn for days.
- Cleanup gear: **N95, goggles, gloves, long sleeves**. Ash can carry heavy metals.
- **Kids, pregnant women, and anyone with heart or lung problems** stay away from cleanup.
- Assume tap water is unsafe; throw out food exposed to **smoke, heat or fire chemicals**.

KEY NUMBERS

0–5 ft
Clear zone around the house

150
AQI: unhealthy for everyone

50–80%
Less indoor smoke with a HEPA clean room

DO THIS NOW

before you need it

TONIGHT

Look up your evacuation zone name and save it in your phone.

THIS WEEKEND

Clear the 0–5 foot zone around the house. Buy N95s for everyone.

WHEN YOU'RE READY

Set up a clean room with a HEPA purifier. Stage go-bags by the door in fire season.

WILDFIRE & SMOKE CHECKLIST

- ☐ Evacuation zone name saved
- ☐ County alerts signed up
- ☐ N95 for each person
- ☐ HEPA purifier for one room
- ☐ MERV 13 furnace filters
- ☐ Go-bag by the door
- ☐ Half tank, always
- ☐ Two ways out of the area
- ☐ Goggles & gloves
- ☐ Copies of key documents
- ☐ Pet carriers & leashes
- ☐ Battery or crank radio



Want the whole plan?

The Ready House Bible by Charlie Ramsey has the full plan, worksheets and checklists for every room of the house. Paperback and Kindle. General preparedness guidance. Always follow local officials and emergency managers.