



595 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108
montecitofire.com

Access & Functional Needs Registration

Do you need additional assistance before, during, or after an incident due to access and functional needs? If so, please sign up for the Montecito Fire Department's voluntary access and functional needs registry.

Additional response assistance may be available for individuals with disabilities, live in institutionalized settings, are elderly, are children, are from diverse cultures, have limited English proficiency, or are transportation disadvantaged. This includes people who had, have, or are perceived as having a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

TO REGISTER,
COMPLETE THE FORM ON THE
REVERSE SIDE AND MAIL TO:

Montecito Fire Protection District
Access and Functional Needs Registry
595 San Ysidro Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93108

Is Your Space Defensible?

Schedule a complimentary Defensible Space Survey:

805-969-7762

Please make sure that your property meets all the requirements.



It is critical that residents register to receive local emergency alerts. If we can't reach you, we can't alert you.

PLEASE REGISTER AT:
www.readysbc.org



Your Personal Wildfire Action Plan

Ready! Set! Go!



Find more information on wildland fire prevention here:
<https://www.montecitofire.com/fire-prevention>

A Message from Chief Neels

Community Member,

Montecito is one of the most beautiful places to live in the world. Our community is characterized by a rural atmosphere, Mediterranean climate, ocean views and beautiful mountains. All the characteristics that make our community so beautiful also combine to create severe wildfire risk.

Climate change has made fire season year-round and increased the number of wildfires in our community. Firefighters and our community members alike are now constantly on heightened alert for the threat of wildfires. The Montecito Fire Department and our partnering agencies stand ready to quickly respond to contain wildfires utilizing our firefighting resources to help protect you and your property.

We can't do this without your cooperation and partnership. Preparation and prevention go hand-in-hand. This Ready! Set! Go! booklet was designed to provide you with critical information on creating defensible space around your home, retrofitting your home with fire-resistant materials, and preparing you to safely evacuate well ahead of a wildfire. Please protect yourself, your family, and your property from wildfire by taking the time to learn about Ready! Set! Go!

Stay safe,
David Neels
Montecito Fire District Fire Chief

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What is Ready! Set! Go!

If you live next to a natural area, the Wildland Urban Interface, you must provide firefighters with the defensible space they need to protect your home. The buffer zone you create by removing weeds, brush, and other vegetation helps to keep the fire away from your home and reduces the risks from flying embers.

Preparing for a wildfire starts with three basic steps:

Ready! Set! Go! Keep this guide on hand as a quick reference for helping your family and property be safe in the event of a wildfire.

Step 1:

Is your home ready?

Creating defensible space and hardening your home against wildfire

Step 2:

Are you set?

Developing a Wildfire Action Plan

Step 3:

Are you ready to go?

A quick-reference evacuation guide

Step 1: Get Ready!

What is Defensible Space?

A home within one mile of a natural area is in the EMBER ZONE. Wind-driven embers can attach to your home. Your home must be prepared well before a fire occurs. Embers can destroy homes or neighborhoods far from the actual flame front of the fire.

Defensible Space is your property's front line defense against wildfire. Maintaining defensible space around your home increases your home's chance of surviving a wildfire and improves the safety of firefighters defending your property. One hundred feet of defensible space is required by law.

Zone 1

30 feet from buildings, decks, and other structures

- Remove all dead plants, grass, and weeds.
- Remove dead or dry leaves & pine needles from your yard, roof & rain gutters.
- Trim trees regularly to keep branches a minimum of 10 feet from eaves, roofline and other trees. Trim the lower branches and limbs to 6 feet above the ground whenever possible.
- Remove dead branches that hang over your roof and keep branches 10 feet away from your chimney.
- Relocate exposed woodpiles outside of Zone 1 unless they are completely covered in a fire resistant material.
- Remove or prune flammable plants and shrubs near windows.
- Remove vegetation and items that could catch fire from around & under decks.
- Create a separation between trees, shrubs & items that could catch fire, such as patio furniture, swing sets, etc.

Zone 2

30 to 100 feet from buildings and other structures

- Cut dry grasses and weeds down to a maximum height of 2 inches.
- Create horizontal spacing between shrubs and trees.
- Create vertical spacing between grass, shrubs and trees.
- Remove fallen leaves, needles, twigs, bark, cones, and small branches. However, they may be permitted to a depth of 4 inches if erosion control is an issue.





Zone 2

Zone 1

Two zones
make up the
required 100 feet
of defensible
space

Step 1: Get Ready!

Additional Defensible Space

Vacant Parcels

- Parcels less than one acre in size: all grasses mowed to less than 3 inches in height.
- Parcels one acre or larger in size: create 30-foot wide fuel breaks around and across the property dividing it into approximately one acre sections. Grasses shall be mowed to less than 3 inches in height.
- Residents living near creek beds, watercourses, oak woodlands or riparian areas should be aware of possible environmentally sensitive habitats.
- Mow before 10 a.m., but never when it is windy or excessively dry. Lawn mowers, trimmers, chainsaws, grinders, welders, and tractors can all start a wildland fire if used improperly.

Road Clearance

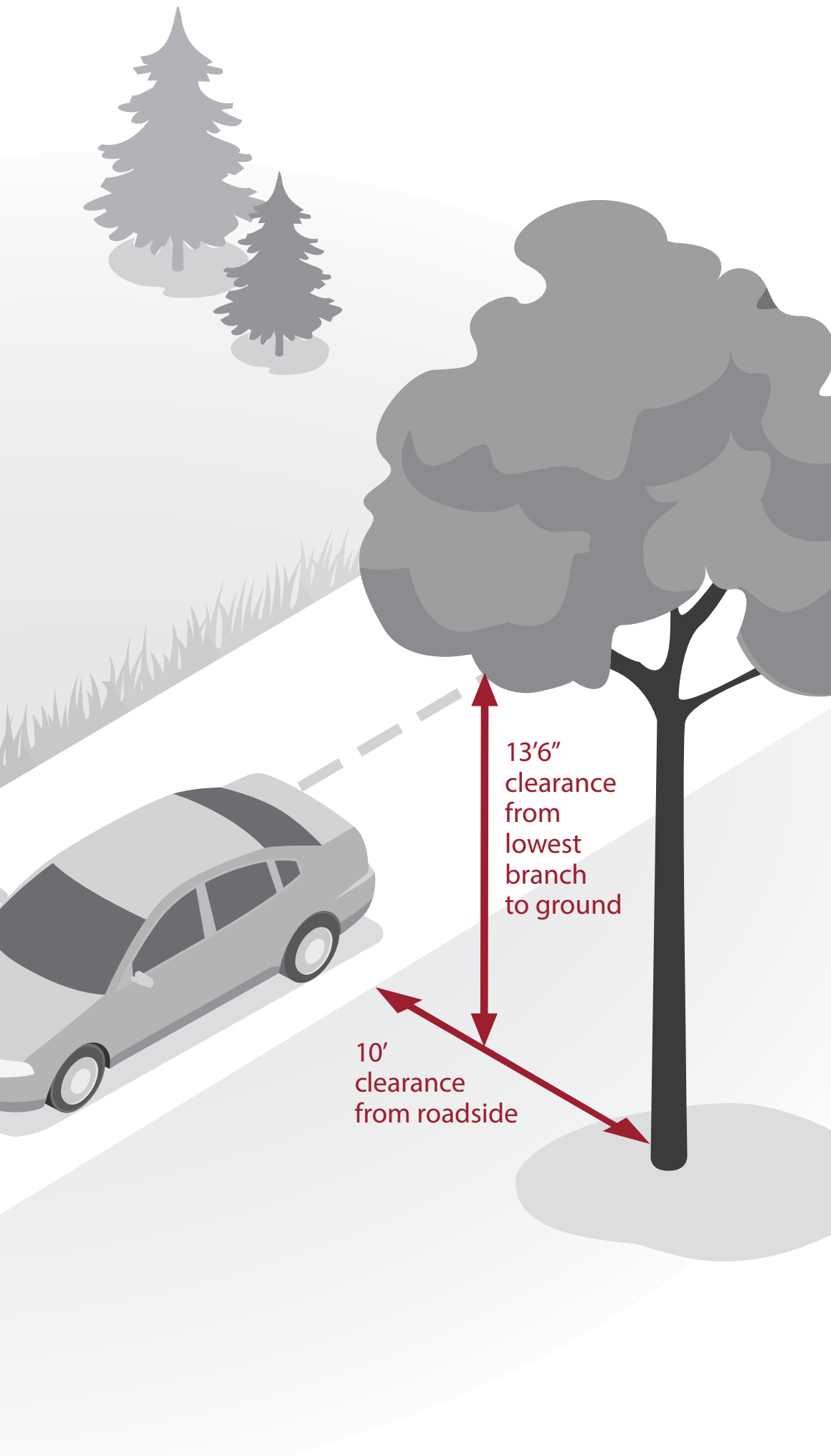
- Clear flammable vegetation that extends into roads/driveways on or bordering your property. Horizontal clearance of at least 10 feet and vertical clearance of at least 13 feet, 6 inches is required above full width of the required driveways and roadways.
- Cut dry grasses and weeds on all roads/driveways to within 2 inches above the ground.
- Protect water quality. Do not clear vegetation near waterways to bare soil. Vegetation removal can cause soil erosion, especially on steep slopes.

Other Considerations

- Remove all dead trees. Dead trees are an extreme fire danger as they allow wildfires to spread more rapidly with quick ignition from embers. If you have dead or dying trees on your property, regardless of the cause, the entire tree needs to be removed to reduce wildfire risk.

Trim grass along roadside to 2"





Complimentary Defensible Space Surveys

The Montecito Fire Department conducts official property inspections each year, usually in late Spring or early depending on rainfall. Please ensure that your property meets all the requirements. To help you prepare adequately, we're happy to provide complimentary defensible space surveys to assist you in protecting your property.

To schedule a survey, please call
(805) 969-7762


Schedule a
complimentary
Defensible Space
Survey today
805-969-7762

Step 1: Get Ready!

Do You Have a "Hardened" Home?

The ability of your home to survive wildfire depends on its construction materials and the quality of the "defensible space" surrounding it. Embers from a wildfire will find the weak link in your home's fire protection scheme and gain the upper hand because of a small, overlooked or seemingly inconsequential factor. However, there are measures you can take to safeguard your home from wildfire. While you may not be able to accomplish all of the measures listed below, each enhances the safety and survival of your home and family during a wildfire.

To harden your home even further, consider protecting your home with a residential fire sprinkler system. In addition to extinguishing a fire started by an ember that enters your home, it also protects you and your family 24/7, year-round, from any fire that may start in your home, not just wildfire.



EAVES
Embers gather under open eaves and ignite exposed wood or other combustible material.

BALCONIES & DECKS
Embers collect in or on combustible surfaces or undersides of decks and balconies, ignite the material, and enter the home through walls or windows.



VENTS

Embers enter the attic or other concealed space and ignite combustible materials. Vents in eaves and cornices are particularly vulnerable, as are any unscreened vents. Install fire (heat) and ember resistant vents.

ROOFS

A roof is the most vulnerable surface for embers to land, lodge, and start a fire; this includes roof valleys, open ends of barrel tiles, and rain gutters.

WALLS

Combustible siding or other combustible or overlapping materials provide a surface and crevice for embers to nestle and ignite.

WINDOWS & DOORS

Embers enter gaps in doors, including garage doors. Plants or combustible storage near windows can be ignited from embers and generate heat that can break windows and/or melt combustible frames. Install dual pane/tempered glass. Vinyl cladding NOT recommended.

Tour a Wildfire Ready Home

1 Home Site and Yard: Ensure that you have at least a 100-foot radius of defensible space (cleared vegetation) around your home. Note that even more clearance may be needed for homes in severe hazard areas. This means looking past what you own to determine the impact a common slope or neighbor's yard will have on your property during a wildfire.

Cut dry weeds and grass before 10 a.m. when temperatures are cooler to reduce the chance of sparking a fire.

Landscape with fire-resistant plants with high moisture content and are low growing.

Hedges: Do not use flammable vegetation for privacy screening. Non-combustible fencing or walls are much safer, have minimal maintenance, and require no watering.

Keep woodpiles, propane tanks, and combustible materials away from your home and other structures, such as garages, barns, and sheds.

Ensure that trees are far away from power lines.

Visit www.montecitofire.com for a list of plants and planting criteria.

2 Roof: Your roof is the most vulnerable part of your home because it can easily catch fire from wind-blown embers. Homes with wood-shake or shingle roofs are at a higher risk of being destroyed during a wildfire than homes with fire resistant roofs.

Build your roof or re-roof with fire-resistant materials that include composition, metal or tile. Block any spaces between roof

decking and covering to prevent ember intrusion.

Clear pine needles, leaves, and other debris from your roof and gutters.

Cut any tree branches within 10 feet of your roof.

3 Vents: Vents on homes are particularly vulnerable to flying embers.

All vent openings should be covered with 1/8-inch metal mesh. Do not use fiberglass or plastic mesh because they can melt and burn.

Attic vents in eaves or cornices should be baffled or otherwise prevent ember intrusion (mesh is not enough).

4 Windows: Heat from a wildfire can cause windows to break even before the home ignites. This allows burning embers to enter and start internal fires. Single-pane and large windows are particularly vulnerable.

Install dual-pane with the exterior pane of tempered glass windows to reduce the chance of breakage in a fire.

Limit the size and number of windows in your home that face large areas of vegetation. Vinyl cladding is not recommended.

5 Inside: Keep working fire extinguishers on hand. Install smoke alarms on each level of your home and near bedrooms. Test them monthly and change the batteries twice a year.

6 Address: Make sure your address is clearly visible from the road. (At least 4" with a contrasting background.)

7 Non-Combustible Fencing: Make sure to use non-combustible fencing to protect your home during a wildfire.

8 Garage: Have a fire extinguisher and tools such as a shovel, rake, bucket, and hoe available for fire emergencies. Install a solid door with self-closing hinges

between living areas and the garage. Install weather stripping around and under the doors to prevent ember intrusion.

Store all combustibles and flammable liquids away from ignition sources.

9 Water Supply: Have multiple garden hoses that are long enough to reach any area of your home and other structures on your property.

If you have a pool or well, consider a pump.

10 Driveways and Access Roads: Driveways should be designed to allow fire and emergency vehicles and equipment to reach your house.

Access roads should have a minimum 10-foot clearance on either side of the traveled section of the roadway and should allow for two-way traffic.

Ensure that all gates open inward and are wide enough to accommodate emergency equipment.

Trim trees and shrubs overhanging the road to a minimum of 13 feet 6 inches clearance to allow emergency vehicles to pass.

11 Chimney: Cover your chimney outlet and stovepipe with a non-flammable screen of 1/4-inch wire mesh or smaller to prevent embers from escaping and igniting

a fire. Make sure that your chimney is at least 10 feet away from any tree branches. Box in eaves with non-combustible materials to prevent accumulation of embers.

12 Rain-gutter: Screen or enclose rain-gutters to prevent accumulation of plant debris.

13 Walls: Wood products, such as boards, panels or shingles are common siding materials. However, they are combustible and not good choices for fire-prone areas.

Build or remodel with fire-resistant building materials, such as brick, cement, masonry, or stucco. Be sure to extend materials from foundation to roof.

14 Deck/Patio Cover: Use heavy timber or non-flammable construction material for decks and patio covers.

Enclose the underside of balconies and decks with fire-resistant materials to prevent embers from blowing underneath, lodging, and starting a fire.

Keep your deck clear of combustible items, such as baskets, dried flower arrangements, and other debris.

The decking surface must be ignition resistant if it is within 10 feet of the home.



Step 2: Get Set!

Create Your Own Wildfire Action Plan

Your Wildfire Action Plan must be prepared with all members of your household well in advance of a fire. Use these checklists to help you prepare your Wildfire Action Plan. Each family's plan will be different, depending on their situation. Once you finish your plan, rehearse it regularly with your family and keep it in a safe and accessible place for quick implementation.



- Create a Family Disaster Plan that includes meeting locations and communication plans, and rehearse it regularly. Include in your plan the evacuation of large animals, such as horses.

- Have fire extinguishers on hand and train your family how to use them.

- Ensure that your family knows where your gas, electric and water main shut-off controls are and how to use them.

- Plan several different escape routes.

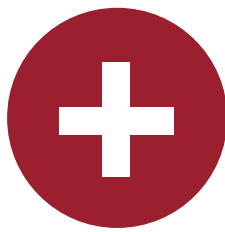


- Designate an emergency meeting location outside of the fire hazard area.

- Assemble an emergency supply kit as recommended by the American Red Cross.

- Appoint an out-of-area friend or relative as a point of contact so that you can communicate with family members who have relocated.

- Maintain a list of emergency contact numbers posted near your phone and in your emergency supply kit.



- Keep an extra emergency supply kit in your car in case you can not get to your home because of fire.

- Have a portable radio or scanner so that you can stay updated on the fire.

- Review your insurance policy: Do you have adequate coverage?

- Inventory your home: take photos and include the inside of closets, cupboards and drawers.





As the fire approaches:

INDOOR CHECKLIST

- ☀ Shut all windows and doors, leaving them unlocked.
- ☀ Shut off air conditioning and heating units.
- ☀ Close fireplace doors and damper.
- ☀ Remove flammable window shades, lightweight curtains, and close metal shutters.
- ☀ Leave your lights on so firefighters can see your house under smoky conditions.

OUTDOOR CHECKLIST

- ☀ Gather up flammable items from the exterior of the house and bring them inside (e.g., patio furniture, children's toys, doormats, etc.) or place them in your pool.
- ☀ Turn off outdoor propane tanks.
- ☀ Connect garden hoses to outside taps.
- ☀ Do not leave sprinklers on or water running – they can waste critical water pressure.
- ☀ Leave exterior lights on.
- ☀ Back your car into the garage. Shut doors and roll up windows.
- ☀ Keep the garage door closed until you are ready to leave.
- ☀ Disconnect electric garage door(s) from the motor.
- ☀ Disconnect motor on automatic gates. Leave gates open and unlocked.
- ☀ Have a ladder available.
- ☀ Patrol your property and extinguish all small fires.
- ☀ Seal attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or commercial seals.

ALERT FAMILY AND NEIGHBORS

- Dress in appropriate clothing (i.e., clothing made from natural fibers, such as cotton and work boots). Have goggles and a dry bandana or particle mask handy.
- Ensure you have an emergency kit on hand that includes necessary items, such as a battery-powered radio, spare batteries, emergency contact numbers, and ample drinking water.
- Stay tuned to your TV, Montecito Community Radio Station 1610 AM, other local radio stations, or check the Montecito Fire District website at www.montecitofire.com for updates.
- Remain close to your house and keep an eye on your family and pets if you did not evacuate.

IF YOU ARE TRAPPED: SURVIVAL TIPS

- Close all exterior doors.
 - Shelter away from outside walls, opposite the approaching fire.
 - Patrol inside your home for spot fires and extinguish them.
 - Wear long sleeves and long pants made of natural fibers such as cotton.
 - Stay hydrated.
 - Ensure you can exit the home if it catches fire.
 - After the fire has passed, check your roof and extinguish any fires, sparks, or embers.
 - Check inside the attic for hidden embers.
 - Patrol your property and extinguish small fires.
- If there are spot fires that you cannot extinguish yourself, call 9-1-1.**

Step 3: Go!

Go Early!

By leaving early, you will give your family the best chance of surviving a wildfire. You also help firefighters by keeping roads clear of congestion and enabling them to move more freely and do their job.

Make a kit:

- Keep a pair of old shoes and a flashlight handy for a night evacuation.
- Keep the six "P's" ready, in case an immediate evacuation is required:
 - People and pets
 - Papers, phone numbers, and important documents
 - Prescriptions, vitamins, and eyeglasses
 - Pictures and irreplaceable memorabilia
 - Personal computer (information on hard drive and disks)
 - "Plastic" (credit cards, ATM cards) and cash

When to leave:

Leave early enough to avoid being caught in fire, smoke, or road congestion. Do not wait to be told by authorities to leave. In an intense wildfire, they may not have time to knock on every door. If you are advised to leave, do not hesitate!

Where to go:

Leave to a predetermined location (it should be a low-risk area, such as a well-prepared neighbor or a relative's house, a Red Cross shelter or evacuation center, motel ...etc.)

Write up your Wildfire Action Plan and post it in a location where every member of your family can see it. Rehearse it with your family.

How to get there:

Have several travel routes in case one route is blocked by the fire or by emergency vehicles and equipment. Choose an escape route away from the fire.

What to take:

Take the emergency supply kit containing your family and pet's necessary items, such as cash, water, clothing, food, first aid kits, medications, and toys. Also, do not forget valuables, such as your computer, photos, and important documents. Organize your family members and make arrangements for your pets.

My Wildfire Action Plan

During High Fire Danger days in your area, monitor your local media for information on brush fires and be ready to implement your plan. Hot, dry, and windy conditions create the perfect environment for a wildfire.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:



Emergency: _____

School: _____

Family: _____

Friends: _____

Animal Shelter: _____

When to go: _____

Where to go: _____

How to get there: _____

WHAT TO TAKE:

- Insurance Papers
- Photos
- Prescriptions
- Important Documents
- Computer/Back up Disks

Notes:

Who to tell (before and after): _____

To register for Access & Functional Needs Assistance, complete this form and mail to:

Montecito Fire Protection District
Access and Functional Needs Registry
595 San Ysidro Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93108



ACCESS & FUNCTIONAL NEEDS REGISTRATION

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Email: _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____

Emergency Contact Phone: _____

