

---

# Gualala Disaster Preparedness Guide

Gualala Municipal Advisory Council - August 2020

---



---

## Introduction

**T**his guide, with the encouragement of our South Coast Fire District and the support of the Gualala Municipal Advisory Council, is in response to the concerns of area residents, visitors, and various agencies. It addresses our ability to respond to emergencies and disasters that can impact our rural community. The recommendations that follow are more of a guide than a plan. We have learned from recent world and local events that ultimately every community and family, while following the guidelines of state and local governments, must develop their own individual plans. During emergencies and disasters, we often find ourselves in unique circumstances. Our family and living conditions, the makeup of our households, the accessibility to resources, information we are receiving locally and nationally, and our ability to anticipate changes and react to them, all impact our ability to respond and care for ourselves, our neighbors, and people who find themselves in difficulty.

*This document provides some assistance in preparing your own plan. If this were the only plan available it would not be sufficient. Nor is it intended to anticipate every situation. There are, however, several things that can help you prepare for the most common emergencies, including wildfire, earthquake, tsunami, power shutdown, health emergency, or other situations that leave you stranded or cut off from your home or destination.*

### **This guide is divided into five sections:**

- 1) A **Material Checklist** of items to have ready;
- 2) Potential **Evacuation Routes** and Map;
- 3) **Gathering Points** and **Local Resources**;
- 4) A **Contact List** of local agencies and disaster response organizations
- 5) Optional **Additional Resources** to help you prepare



## Material Checklist

### *Items to have ready at a moments notice and/or in anticipation of an emergency or disaster event:*

1. **Food** - a minimum 14-day food supply for you and family members, including pets, infants and elderly members of the household. Non-perishables such as canned goods like beans, corn, chili, fruit, etc., as well as a can opener, plates and utensils. There are also emergency food supply kits that can be purchased commercially. Protein bars and energy bars are also good. Having "Go Bags" that are instantly portable to carry food and other items is highly recommended.
2. **Medications** - Make sure you keep medications and refills up-to-date and ready should you need to either shelter in place or evacuate. Check frequently with other household members and of course your pets. For most medications you can request a 14-30 day " Vacation Override" once a year to increase your on-hand supply.
3. **Drinking Water** - More important than food as you can go longer without food than you can water. It's important in any situation to remain hydrated. Large drinking water containers purchased in the grocery can last a long time and up to 4 years. Bottled water is relatively inexpensive in large bulk packages and has good shelf life. Vitamin water and other sports drinks are good for electrolytes. Figure a minimum of 2

---

quarts, or more, per person per day. If you are sheltered in place and no water systems are working, your hot water tank can become a temporary source of drinking water.

4. **Ice Container/Cooler** - Anything that can hold ice for perishable items or medications during evacuation, and ice that can be placed in the refrigerator if you are sheltered in place during a power outage.

5. **Outerwear and Blankets** - Jackets and blankets for each household member or larger blankets that can be shared, plus an extra one for someone in need. Especially in cooler months, but also for cool evenings. If you are evacuating or stranded, it's important to avoid hypothermia, a condition that occurs when your core body temperature is dangerously lowered.

6. **First Aid Kit** - You should always keep one in your car and one in your household fully stocked. One or more members of the household should also have taken a course in first aid and CPR. Coast Life Support and South Coast Fire can provide information on where and when classes are offered.

7. **Radio** - A small transistor radio, even an old one, with fresh set of batteries stored in a bag and taped to it. You can also purchase a crank type radio that will generate its own power as a particularly good back up. Unless you have a generator, there is no access to a TV network during a power shutdown. There are several local and Bay Area radio stations that can be typically accessed with good reception - KGUA (88.3 FM), KZYX (90.7 FM), KTDE (100.5 FM), KQED (88.5 FM), and KGO (810 AM).

8. **Cell Phone Adaptor/Charger** - In a power shutdown or an evacuation, your vehicle may be the best way to keep your cell phone charged. You should carry a plug-in adaptor that fits your vehicle's accessory power outlet. If you don't have one, they are a common inexpensive item sold in most hardware stores. Store it where you can find it in each car. You can also charge your cell phone with a fully-charged, laptop computer. Solar powered chargers are also commercially available.

9. **Fuel** - Your vehicle(s) should always have a minimum of a half tank of fuel. If you have more than one vehicle and not all household members and supplies can fit in one, then the same applies to additional vehicles. If you own a generator, you should have enough of the type of fuel used to run for at least two days in the event of a power shutdown.

10. **Light Sources** - Keep a good emergency light source readily available both in your home and vehicle(s). New LED technology provides powerful lights, using little battery power, that are long lasting and affordable. Store batteries in a separate plastic bag taped to the light to ensure fresh battery power.

11. **Matches/Fire Starters** - Good to have along if you need to make a fire or heat water or food. Fires should be made in grills and secure campsites, and not out in the open, especially in wildfire season. Any fire should be fully extinguished after use.

---

12. **Hand Soap/Disinfectant/Other Hygiene Items** - Soap and water are best for hygiene and disinfecting. Hand lotions should have a minimum of 63 percent alcohol to be effective. You can make disinfecting hand lotion by mixing 2 parts alcohol (ethyl or isopropyl) and 1 part aloe verde gel. Any all purpose anti-bacterial liquid soap will also do.

13. **Face Coverings** - During an outbreak of a contagious disease or virus, face coverings such as surgical masks, homemade cloth masks, or even dust masks purchased from a hardware store can provide a degree of protection when combined with keeping a distance of 6 or more feet from other people. Avoid large groups of people and especially people who appear to have symptoms of flu or colds. In a pandemic or outbreak, people who have secondary health problems such as diabetes, hypertension, or heart disease should shelter at home as much as possible.

14. **Latex Gloves** - These provide protection from physical transfer of germs and viruses, but in a health emergency, may not be available in stores. Wash hands frequently while keeping them away from your face (eyes, nose, and mouth). Wearing a face covering whenever in public or in the presence of other people who are not in your household will go a long way toward providing protection.

15. **Plastic Buckets** - 2 five-gallon plastic buckets available at hardware and home supply stores will hold anything that needs to be carried to your vehicle during evacuation. They can also hold ice for cooling perishables, and even be useful for those dire moments when no public restrooms are open or available. And don't forget a few rolls of toilet paper!

16. **Basic Hand Tools** - A good pair of channel-lock pliers, plain pliers, Philips head and flat head screwdriver, wire cutters, crescent wrench (small and medium), hammer, roll of electrical tape, roll of duct tape, and a good pocket knife, tile knife, or Swiss Army knife, are all good general purpose tools for making emergency repairs either at home or in your vehicle.

17. **Tarps and Rope** - Two 10 ft by 10 ft plastic reinforced tarps can have multiple uses as ground cover. You can also make a "lean-to" tent by attaching one end of the tarp to a 25 ft length of rope tied between two trees at a height of 4 to 6 feet. They are also found at home supply stores. The lower edge of the tarp should face the wind and weather whenever possible. Digging a shallow trench around it will keep the inside ground cover tarp dry.

18. **An Out-of-State Contact Number** - You should carry a phone number and address of a friend or relative out of the area that you or someone can contact to relay messages to other friends, relatives, or public safety officers to let them know you are OK. Ham radio operators can also network to get messages out when all lines of communication are down.

---

19. **Generators and Alternate Power Supplies** - If you plan to invest in a portable or fixed generator, these are some things to consider. State law and codes require installation of a transfer switch before connecting any generator to a main electrical panel. Wiring a generator outlet or cord directly to a main breaker can result in a live feed from your generator to the power utility endangering electrical workers and causing injury and possible death. A transfer switch must be installed by a licensed electrical contractor. All generators portable or stationary must be grounded before operating. Never refill diesel or gasoline generators while they are still warm from operating. Read your owners manual and follow recommendations. Some generators also are "dual fuel" running on gasoline or liquid propane.

20. **Records and Documents** - Keep important files in digital or cloud storage and keep passports, picture IDs, and other personal records like wills or trusts in an easy-to-access briefcase or bag.

21. **Miscellaneous** - We encourage you to make your personal additions to this material checklist. Depending on how much room you have in your vehicle, you may, for example add some sophisticated camping gear, or carry a socket set or two. If you have small children in your household, extra disposable diapers and small toys may be added to the list. There are many examples depending on our individual circumstances. In some situations, your vehicle could become your best source of protection from the elements. Keeping your vehicle maintained and road-worthy is especially important in this frontier area where we reside and play.

Additionally, always be aware of your immediate surroundings, informed of what is happening even outside our immediate area. Know what the danger or emergency is, where it is coming from, and where it is headed. Running possible scenarios through your head and having even a basic plan for how you will respond to the next emergency does not have to create feelings of fear and stress. It is healthy and encouraging when we can deal with adversity knowing we have a workable plan and the materials and resources necessary to survive, adapt, and overcome. In so doing we become more resourceful ourselves and a resource to others. When the time comes and we must put our plan into action, it is also extremely important that we follow the orders of public safety and health officers. When people refuse to do so, they interfere with the actions of first responders and put them and others in jeopardy. As we have learned more than once, we truly are all in this together.

---

## Evacuation Routes

Depending on the nature of the local (or regional) disaster, an evacuation order may be given by the local authorities. It is important under these circumstances to pay close attention to any recommended routes in order to avoid roads that may be blocked, inaccessible or ill-advised for whatever reason. As you are likely already aware, all roads leading in and out of our coastal area at some point meander through mountainous and forested areas and, even in the best of conditions, can be slow going at times. Please be patient and be careful if you find yourself having to evacuate along with many others. Here are brief descriptions, including mile marker locations, of the main north/south and east/west roads:

### North/South

**State Route 1** - (aka Hwy 1, Shoreline Hwy.) - This main coastal artery in normal times accommodates the vast majority of traffic in the coastal region. Typically well-maintained, SR1 nevertheless is subject to temporary closures or delays from time to time due to mudslides, fallen trees or maintenance work. Also, it can be closed near the Garcia river north of Point Arena due to flooding. However, it is the only road with connections to every East/West evacuation route so no matter what the recommended evacuation route is you will likely be spending some time on SR1.

**Old Stage Road (MEN .60)** - This is effectively an alternative route from Gualala to Point Arena that avoids the coast in favor of a ridge top route through a largely pine forest.

### East/West (from South to North)

**Skaggs Springs Road (SON 48.00)** - From Stewarts Point just south of the start of Sea Ranch, Skaggs Springs Road is a paved, curvy mountainous road leading to Healdsburg on Hwy 101.

**Annapolis Road (SON 51.94)** - From SR1 at its westerly start point, Annapolis Road is a paved route that leads to Skaggs Springs Road, from which you can reach Healdsburg on Hwy 101.

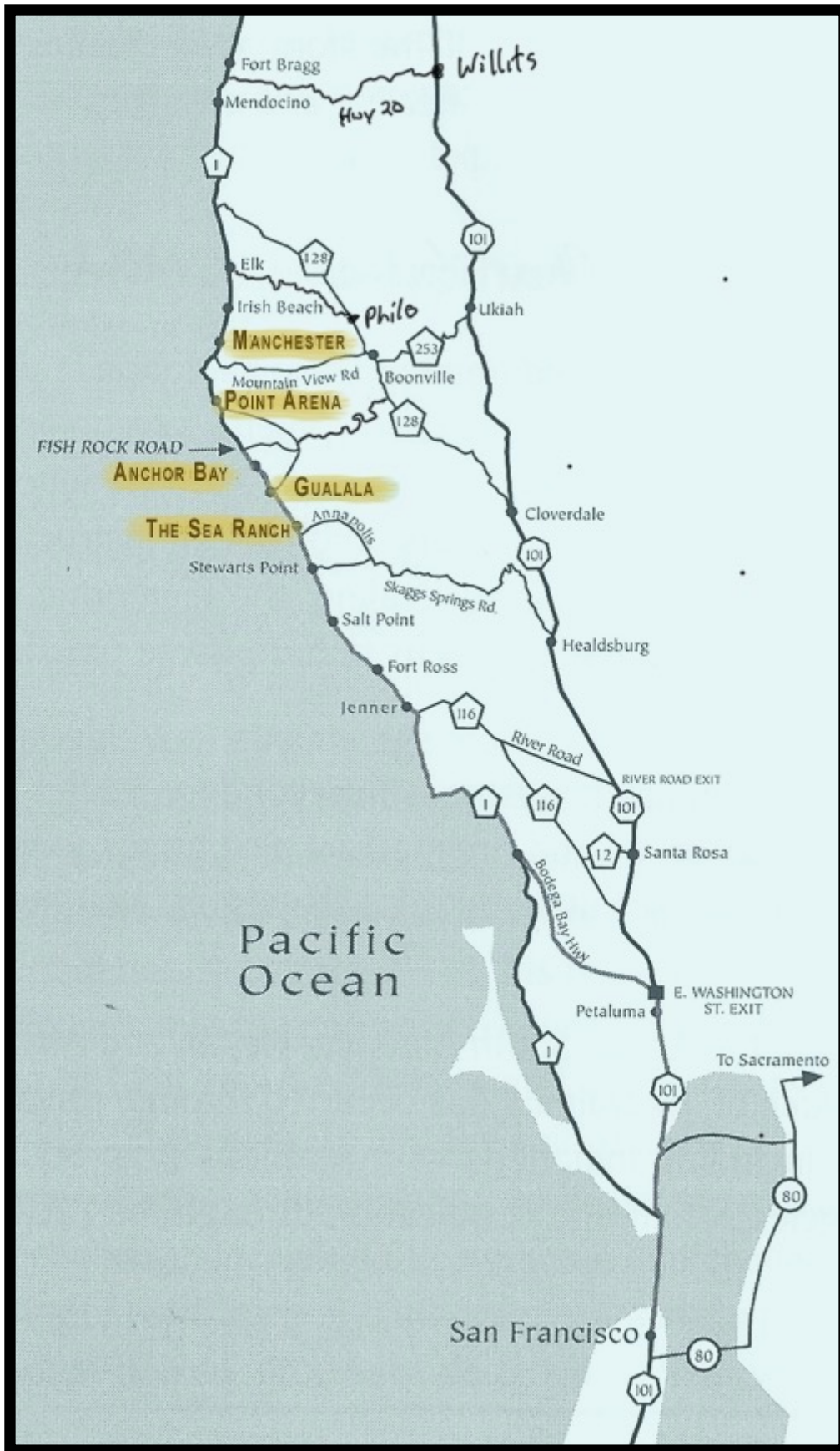
**Fish Rock Road (MEN 5.07)** - From SR1 Fish Rock Rd. Heads East to Old Stage Rd. Turn left at Old Stage Rd. heading North approximately 1/8 mile then turn right to continue on Fish Rock Road which soon turns into gravel. This is a rough mountain road that leads to Hwy 128 south of Boonville, from which you can follow Hwy 128 to Cloverdale on Hwy 101.

**Mountain View Road (MEN 19.34)** - From SR1 approx. 4 miles north of Point Arena, this mountainous, twisty, paved but at times rough road eventually terminates in Boonville on Hwy 128. After Boonville you can turn North on Rt 253 that connects to Ukiah, or you can continue East on 128 to Cloverdale and Hwy 101. Ukiah has a hospital and emergency services.

**Philo-Greenwood Road (MEN 33.90)** - Starting on the southern end of the village of Elk, this road, as its name implies, takes you on a paved but a bit rough mountainous route from Elk (formerly known as Greenwood) to Philo on Hwy 128.

**Hwy 128 (MEN 40.10)** - Perhaps the only road that avoids (for the most part) the tough climb over coastal mountains, Hwy 128 follows the Navarro river valley east from SR1 through the Anderson Valley and ultimately gets you to Cloverdale on Hwy 101. The section of 128 closest to the coast can flood during heavy winter rains.

**TIP:** Keep your vehicle(s) at least 1/2 full of gas at all times, especially during fire season. You do not want to wait in line at a gas station during an evacuation.





---

# GATHERING PLACES

## COMMUNICATIONS CENTERS

## SHELTERS

We learned valuable lessons during the 2019 Public Safety Power Shortage. Among them was a critical need for a central facility where the community can gather if need be, shelter if need be, and that can serve as a center for communications and public information. That 2019 event found some people sleeping in their cars along Highway 1, grocery stores and businesses throwing away precious food and supplies because there was no way to store them or provide a food kitchen. The situation would be compounded many times over in a real emergency. We are exploring several options for a place that could serve as shelter, emergency food and food kitchen and communications center. Currently, options include the Gualala Community Center, the Gualala Arts Center, The Gualala Hotel, and others. Each of these has pros (ample space, available food storage and kitchen, centrally located) and cons (working agreements, costs, energy generation and storage, etc.) and would require coordination, investment, volunteer staffing, and other resources. We would welcome input, suggestions and ideas from the community.

One immediate option as a gathering place is the Ocean Ridge Airport, 37691 Old Stage Road. It has a wide, expansive space that could accommodate people in a camping sort of arrangement.

Another option may be Bower Park.

---

## EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

### Government Agencies

Mendocino County Sheriff Dispatch Office (non-emergency)	707 463-4086 707 961-2421
South Coast Volunteer Fire Department Greg Warner Cell	707 884-4700 707 328-5572
Coast Life Support District	911 or 707 884-1829

### Medical Services

Redwood Cost Medical Services	911 or 707 884-4005
Adventist Hospital, Mendocino Coast, Fort Bragg	707 961-1234
Kaiser Permanente-Santa Rosa	707 393-4000
Santa Rosa Memorial	707 525-5300
Sutter-Santa Rosa	707 576-4000

### Media

KGUA	707 884-4883
KTDE	707 884-1000

### Services

North Gualala Water Company	707 884-3579
PG&E (Power Outage Info Center)	800 743-5002
Gualala Community Services District	707 884-1715

---

## Additional Resources

### Alert Systems

Strongly recommended - Mendocino County Citizen Alert Notification System

To sign up using your smart phone, text Mendoalerts to 888777, or use  
<https://member.everbridge.net/index/892807736722865#/signup>

PG&E Alerts: <https://pge.com/mywildfirealerts>  
CA ISO Alerts (Grid Power Outages): <http://www.flexalert.org>

### Web Sites

Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG), which is currently working on a county-wide fire and emergency plan: [www.mendocinocog.org](http://www.mendocinocog.org)

For general wildfire preparation tips: [www.readyforwildfire.org](http://www.readyforwildfire.org)

PG&E's Emergency Preparedness Kit recommendations:

[https://www.pge.com/en\\_US/safety/emergency-preparedness/preparedness-kit/emergency-preparedness-kit.page](https://www.pge.com/en_US/safety/emergency-preparedness/preparedness-kit/emergency-preparedness-kit.page)

PG&E PSPS Updates: <https://pge.com/pspsupdates>

CalTrans - Check road conditions <https://roads.dot.ca.gov>

*Mendocino County Road Closures*  
<https://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/transportation/road-closures>

### Other Resources:

Gualala Food Bank - at the Gualala baptist Church

Coastal Seniors - Meals on Wheels, and van transport - 707 882-2137

Mendonoma Health Alliance - 707 412-3176

**Community Resource List in English and Spanish:** [info@actionnetwork.info](mailto:info@actionnetwork.info)

Action Network also provides financial assistance, gasoline vouchers, utility funds, items/supplies for children - 707 884-5414