



## DEALERS OPEN LOT INSURANCE PROGRAM: EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ALERT

### PROACTIVELY REDUCE RISK AND LOSSES DUE TO UNCONTROLLED WILDFIRES

#### DEALER EMERGENCY FIRE EVACUATION PLAN

The past few years have seen record-setting wildfire activity with wildfires across the U.S. taking a massive toll on human life and property. As such, the threat of catastrophic loss for dealerships due to wildfires has risen significantly.

The fire emergency fire evacuation plan is an important preparation tool for dealerships to help proactively reduce risk and losses due to wildfires. Below is a framework for your dealers to use to help create a plan that works for them.



1. **Designate a safe place for all vehicles to be relocated**, while ensuring this area is outside the impacted evacuation zone.
2. **Map out a primary evacuation route**, including alternate routes in case the main intended route is blocked.
3. **Create a communication plan** for the use of dealer employees. Develop an alternate plan that everyone is comfortable with in case there is no landline or cell service. In certain emergencies, public safety officials will communicate evacuation orders and other emergency developments through various methods including the news media, social media and alert broadcasts to smartphones, and these can be valuable resources for the dealership.
4. **Ensure that all of the inventory vehicles have ample fuel** to reach the designated evacuation location, knowing that preferred evacuation routes may be blocked.
5. Management should actively monitor public safety announcements if a fire is located within the general area of the dealership. **If there is a warning for the area, the dealer should immediately start the evacuation process.** Fires can spread rapidly, unpredictably and without warning, so any delay could prevent an orderly evacuation.
6. **Identify a key employee** as the main contact (as well as multiple back-up contacts) that will operate outside the affected area; make sure everyone has these employees' contact information so they can serve as a point of contact. Share cell phone numbers for texting, as text messages will often go through if voice service deteriorates or is disrupted.
7. Once the vehicles have been moved to the evacuation location, **ensure a central log is kept and all vehicle keys are secured** with designated employees.
8. Once the fire has been contained, key personnel should **coordinate to return the vehicles to the dealership** and log them back in to verify that there is no missing inventory.



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