

Wildfire

Preparedness Tips

Wildfires can strike with little warning, leaving communities vulnerable and causing widespread devastation. Being prepared can make all the difference in ensuring your safety and minimizing damage.

This infographic outlines tips to help you prepare before, stay safe during and recover after a wildfire.

Before a Wildfire



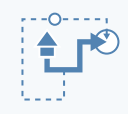
Create a defensible space.

An adequate defensible space acts as a barrier to slow or halt the progress of fire on your property and helps firefighters defend your home. Remove leaves, debris and flammable materials around your home. The first 5 feet from your home is the most critical, but the buffer can extend up to 100 feet.



Prepare an emergency kit.

Stores and pharmacies may be closed during a wildfire, but you'll likely need essentials like water, nonperishable food, medications and a first-aid kit. Put together a kit with about three days' worth of supplies and a one-month supply of medications you can quickly grab during an emergency. Personal, financial and medical records should also be kept safe and easily accessible by keeping hard copies or securely backing them up.



Plan evacuation routes.

You may have to leave your home quickly, so identify multiple escape routes from your home and community and regularly practice using them. If you have pets or other animals, developing a plan for them is essential, too. You should also be aware of the evacuation routes for places you spend a lot of time at, such as your workplace.



Stay informed.

Sign up for local emergency alerts and warnings and monitor weather conditions and fire danger levels. The most important information will come from your local government.

During a Wildfire



Follow evacuation orders.

If local authorities instruct you to evacuate, leave immediately and do not wait until the last minute.



Stay updated.

Monitor the local weather and any fires near you. Listen to the local news and emergency broadcasts for updates on the wildfire's status and evacuation instructions.



Wear protective clothing.

If you must go outside, cover your body with long sleeves, pants and sturdy shoes to protect yourself from ash. It's recommended that you wear an N95 respirator.



Help neighbors.

During a wildfire, it's important to check on neighbors and other community members to ensure they can evacuate or don't need additional help.

After a Wildfire



Follow local guidance. Only return home when emergency authorities declare it safe to do so.



Watch out for debris and other hazards. Be cautious of debris on the roads and be on high alert for missing street signs or broken traffic lights. Avoid damaged or fallen power lines, poles and downed wires.



Clean up safely. Wear protective gear while cleaning up debris to avoid direct contact with ash. Children should not do any cleanup work, and pets should also be kept away from wildfire ash.



Take care of yourself. Contact your health care provider if you have trouble breathing, shortness of breath, excessive coughing or other persistent symptoms. If you're in emotional distress, call or text 1-800-985-5990 for the Disaster Distress Helpline.

By following these guidelines, you can protect yourself, your loved ones and your property from the dangers of wildfires. It's crucial to always monitor wildfire activity to best protect your health and safety.