

WILDFIRES

In some years, wildfires have burned over 10,000,000 acres in the U.S. Over the course of a decade, the number of homes and structures destroyed by wildfires increased by 246%. With some simple planning, you can help *prepare your loved ones and your property* for a wildfire emergency. Preparation, planning, and quick action may save your life!

EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM:

** WHAT IS A WILDFIRE? **

A **WILDFIRE** is an uncontrolled fire capable of wiping out large areas of land. Wildfires may be ignited by a lightning strike, a downed powerline, people accidentally starting it, or arson. Wildfires may burn entire forests and last for days or weeks at a time.

ITS UP TO YOU TO PREVENT WILDFIRE

Nearly 90% of wildfires are started by people.

Do your part to prevent wildfires with these tips:

- Do not discard cigarettes or leave campfires unattended.
- Teach children that matches and lighters are **NOT** toys.
- Do not burn garbage or debris such as leaves and limbs.

PREPARE FOR AN EVACUATION



Nonperishable food and drinking water for each family member for 3 days



A change of clothing and extra pairs of shoes for each family member



Sleeping bags and extra blankets for each family member



A first-aid kit and prescription medications



Special items for infants or the elderly



A battery powered flashlight and radio with extra batteries



An extra set of car keys, extra cash, credit cards, and traveler's checks



List of important phone numbers, insurance, home's contents and irreplaceable family treasures

BEFORE THE WILDFIRE

- Keep your roof and gutters free of debris.
- Clean chimneys once a year and inspect them at least twice a year.
- Instruct everyone in your home on how to properly use a fire extinguisher.
- Have fire-fighting tools such as rakes, axes, buckets, chainsaws, ladders and shovels on hand.

WHEN A WILDFIRE APPROACHES

- Stay informed. Monitor radio and television for evacuation orders.
- Have your vehicle parked outside, facing the direction of escape, packed, with keys in the ignition.
- Confine all of your pets to one room. Have a pet care plan if you must evacuate.
- Inform someone when you leave and where you're going.
- Choose an evacuation route away from the wildfire area.
- Turn off gas utilities and disconnect propane tanks.
- Keep at least one light on in each room to assist firefighters.
- Place lawn sprinklers on the roof and near fuel tanks.
- Wet any vegetation within 15 feet of your home.

AFTER A WILDFIRE

Check with fire officials before returning to your home.

Check grounds for hot spots and smoldering vegetation. Dowsse with buckets of water.

Search throughout the house (including the attic) for hidden burning sparks and stray embers. Remain cautious for several days.

Check the roof and exterior areas of your home for sparks and embers.

Use Caution: Watch for flare-ups when re-entering your home.

Call 9-1-1 if any danger is found.

CREATE A FIRE SAFE ZONE

- Create a fire safe zone 30 to 100 feet around the perimeter of the home.
- Clear all vines, overgrown grass, and other vegetation.
- Create a 10-foot clear space around propane tanks and barbeque grills.
- If you burn trash and debris, make sure to follow local laws and guidelines.
- Dispose of fireplace and barbeque ashes in metal containers and soak the ashes for at least two days before burying.
- Flammable liquids and materials should be stored in approved safety cans and placed at a safe distance away from structures.
- Stack firewood at least 100 feet away from your home.

TYPES OF WILDFIRE

SURFACE FIRE

A slow-moving fire which burns along the floor of a forest, killing or damaging trees.

GROUND FIRE

Usually started by lightning, burns on or below the forest floor.

CROWN FIRE

Fast-moving fires which spread rapidly by wind and move quickly by jumping along treetops.

MINIMIZE THE RISK TO LIFE AND PROPERTY BE PREPARED FOR WILDFIRE

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