



# WILDFIRE SAFETY

## FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

### PREPAREDNESS

Prepare long before the threat of a wildland fire so your home or business is ready in case of a fire:

- ✓ Create defensible space by clearing brush away from your home.
- ✓ Use fire-resistant landscaping and harden your home with fire-safe construction measures.
- ✓ Put together a basic emergency supply kit. Check emergency equipment, such as flashlights and generators. See [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) for tips on preparing an emergency kit.
- ✓ Plan escape routes and make sure all those residing within your home or business know the plan of action.
- ✓ Before an emergency happens, sit down with your family or close friends and decide how you will get in contact with each other, where you will go, and what you will do in an emergency. Keep a copy of this plan in your emergency supplies kit or another safe place where you can access it quickly. Start at the [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) emergency plan web page.
- ✓ Review your insurance policies to ensure that you have adequate coverage for your home and personal property.
- ✓ Understand NWS forecast products, especially the meaning of NWS watches and warnings. **See back of brochure.**



### GET SET - BE AWARE

- ✓ Pack your emergency items.
- ✓ Stay aware of the latest wildfire news and information from your local National Weather Service office and local government emergency management office.
- ✓ Find out what type of emergencies could occur and how you should respond.
- ✓ Listen to NOAA Weather Radio or other radio or TV stations for the latest news.
- ✓ Follow instructions issued by local officials and leave immediately if ordered!
- ✓ If NOT ordered to evacuate, use battery powered flashlights. **Do NOT** light campfires, candles or anything else that could start a fire.
- ✓ If you smoke, be sure to extinguish your cigarette or cigar before disposing of it. Never throw a burning item on the ground.
- ✓ Bag-up trash, clippings and other easily flammable items.
- ✓ Fill up your vehicle in case you need to evacuate.





## UNDERSTAND WILDFIRE **WARNING** AND **WATCHES**

### **GO - ACT EARLY!**

- ✓ A big threat after the fire are snags (fire weakened trees), be aware of the threat posed by falling trees.
- ✓ Follow your personal wildland fire action plan. Following your plan will not only support your safety, but will allow firefighters to best maneuver resources to combat the fire.
- ✓ Continue listening to a NOAA Weather Radio or the local news for the latest updates.
- ✓ If you evacuate, return home only when officials say it is safe.
- ✓ Once home, drive only if necessary. If you must go out, watch for fallen objects in the road, downed electrical wires, and weakened walls, bridges, roads, and sidewalks that might collapse.
- ✓ Walk carefully around the outside of your home to check for damaged power lines, gas leaks, and structural damage.
- ✓ Stay out of any building in which you smell gas, see smoke or flames or if the building or home was damaged by fire, or if the authorities have not declared it safe.
- ✓ Carbon monoxide poisoning is one of the leading causes of death after storms in areas dealing with power outages. Never use a portable generator inside your home or garage. Review generator safety.
- ✓ Use battery-powered flashlights. **Do NOT** use candles. Turn on your flashlight before entering a vacated building. The battery could produce a spark that could ignite leaking gas if present.

### **Red Flag Warning: Take Action!**

NWS issues a Red Flag Warning in conjunction with land management agencies to alert you to critical fire weather conditions ongoing or expected to occur within the next 12-48 hours.

### **Fire Weather Watch: Be Prepared!**

NWS issues a Fire Weather Watch when critical fire weather conditions are possible in the next one to four days (18 to 96 hours). In cases of dry lightning, NWS may issue a Fire Weather Watch for the next 12 hours.

