



Wildfires can occur anywhere and at anytime. Preparing your family for wildfire situations can help you avoid or minimize injury and speed the recovery process.

Before a Wildfire

- **Determine the risk of wildfire in your area.**
 - NOAA's National Weather Service National Hazards Map at <http://www.weather.gov/>.
 - Fire weather and forecasts, current hazards and fire situations at <https://fsapps.nwcg.gov/afm/>.
 - Favorable conditions for wildfires include:
 - High winds, low humidity/dewpoint, above normal temperatures, dormant vegetation, drought conditions.
- **Know the terminology.**
 - A **Fire Weather Watch** is issued when the potential for severe fire weather exists in the near future – usually between 12 and 24 hours in the future, though they can be issued for days in advance.
 - A **Red Flag Warning** is issued to indicate the imminent danger of severe fire weather with a relatively high probability of occurrence.
- **Sign-up for local emergency alerts.**
 - Check with your local emergency management agency or fire department for local emergency alert programs that can be sent directly to your phone, tablet, or other device.
- **Prepare an emergency kit:**
 - Food, water and necessities for all members of the family to last 3 to 5 days
 - Any medications needed for family members
 - First aid kit, flashlight, solar, battery-powered, or crank radio, batteries, fire extinguisher
 - Important family documents (e.g., insurance policies, emergency contact numbers)
- **Develop an evacuation plan.**
 - Learn the evacuation routes and locations of emergency shelters in your area.
 - Identify several escape routes for your location, in case roads are blocked.
 - Have your vehicles loaded and full of fuel, facing the direction of travel.
- **Create a family communication plan.**
 - Determine where you will go and how you will communicate if a fire occurs and an evacuation is ordered.
 - Designate an out-of-state relative or friend as the family contact person.

During a Wildfire

- **Stay informed.**
 - Listen to the radio or television for situation developments, evacuation instructions and routes, and road closures.
- **Gather your emergency kit.**
- **If an evacuation order is given, leave immediately.**
 - Do not return for any reason until told it is safe.
 - Let someone know where you are going – a designated emergency shelter, a family member's home, or other location.
 - If possible, take your family pets with you.
- **Drive carefully when evacuating.**
 - Smoke may reduce visibility.
 - Fleeing wildlife or animals may cross the roadway.
 - Debris from the fire may impede your path.
- **Follow evacuation routes and expect heavy traffic.**
- **Take health precautions.**
 - If you have asthma, emphysema, or other respiratory conditions, avoid smoke inhalation.
 - If you must be outside in a smoke-filled area, use an N-95 mask or a dry cloth over your mouth and nose.
- **If you become trapped,**
 - Crouch in a pond, river or pool.
 - Do not put wet clothing or bandanas over your mouth or nose. Moist air causes more damage to airways than dry air at the same temperature.
 - If there is no body of water:
 - Find shelter in a cleared area or among a bed of rocks.
 - Lie flat, face down, and cover your body with soil.
 - Breathe the air close to the ground to avoid scorching your lungs or inhaling smoke.

After a Wildfire

- **Do not return home until authorities tell you it is safe.**
- **Use caution when entering burned areas.**
- **Seek medical attention for injuries as soon as possible.**
 - If you are someone you are with has been burned, call 9-1-1 or seek help immediately.

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