

## WILDFIRE

Wildfires can start unexpectedly and spread quickly. You may not be aware of a wildfire until you are in danger, so it is important to be prepared for a wildfire, especially if you live in a dry, wooded area. Wildfires can be incredibly destructive and dangerous. They pose a threat not only to your home and community, but also to your family if you are not prepared.

### ***How to Prepare for a Wildfire***

- Be aware of your area's risk for wildfires.
- Practice fire safety by—
  - Installing smoke detectors on every level of your home
  - Never leaving a fire (including a cigarette) burning unattended
  - Avoiding open burning
- Create a 30–50 foot safety zone around your home by—
  - Clearing the area of all flammable vegetation, including dry leaves and branches
  - Removing vines from the side of your home
  - Regularly disposing of trash at approved sites
  - Storing gasoline and oily rags in proper safety cans
- Regularly clean roof and gutters of debris.
- Make sure you have a fire extinguisher as well as a hose that can reach all areas of the home.
- Get an emergency supply kit.
- Develop a family evacuation procedure and a communication plan.



All personnel should maintain a basic level of preparedness for all potential hazards.

You are encouraged to get an emergency supply kit, make a family emergency plan, and be informed about what might happen.

### ***What to Do When There Is a Wildfire***

- Listen to radio and TV for information and instructions.
- If you spot a wildfire, call 911 immediately. Don't assume that someone has already reported it.
- If directed to evacuate, do so immediately:
  - Turn on porch lights and all the lights inside to make your home easier to spot in heavy smoke.
  - Leave doors and windows unlocked for firefighters.
  - Turn off gas.
  - Fill any large containers with water, including pools, garbage cans, and tubs.
  - Close all the doors in your house to prevent a draft.
  - If time permits, clear the house and the area around it of any flammable items, including firewood and cloth curtains.
  - Take your emergency kit.
- Wear protective clothing that fully covers your arms and legs. Check the labels on your clothing for the words "fire retardant." These are materials designed to resist burning and withstand heat.

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### ***What to Do after a Wildfire***

- Check the roof and attic for smoldering embers or fires.
- Put out any fires with the water stored in containers.
- Maintain a fire watch for several hours, periodically checking for fires or smoke throughout and around the house.

### ***Where to Find Additional Information***

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)—[www.bt.cdc.gov/firesafety](http://www.bt.cdc.gov/firesafety)
- Department of Homeland Security (Ready.gov)—[www.ready.gov/america/beinformed/wildfires.html](http://www.ready.gov/america/beinformed/wildfires.html)
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)—[www.fema.gov/hazard/wildfire/index.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/hazard/wildfire/index.shtm)

***Semper Paratus***

**Be “Always Ready.” Get an emergency supply kit good for at least three days, make an emergency plan with your family, and be informed about what might happen.**

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