



WILDFIRE

Wildfires are unpredictable and can escalate rapidly, posing a significant threat to individuals and communities – particularly those in dry, wooded areas. Due to their shift and unexpected nature, it's crucial to prepare for wildfire scenarios, as you may not receive warning before being directly impacted.

Being prepared isn't just about protecting property; it's about safeguarding your family and ensuring their well-being in a potentially dangerous situation. Wildfires are incredibly destructive and demand a preparedness mindset to mitigate risk and ensure a swift, effective response.



Wildfire Preparedness & Response

Pre-Wildfire Preparation:

- **Risk Awareness:** Understand your local wildfire risk level.
- **Fire Safety Practices:**
 - Install working smoke detectors on every level of your home.
 - Never leave any fire (including cigarettes) unattended.
 - Avoid open burning whenever possible.
- **Defensible Space (30-50 feet around your home):**
 - Remove flammable vegetation – dry leaves, branches, etc.
 - Clear vines from exterior walls.
 - Regularly dispose of trash properly.
 - Store flammable liquids (gasoline, oily rags) in approved containers.
- **Home Maintenance:** Regularly clean roofs and gutters of debris.
- **Fire Suppression Equipment:** Ensure you have a functional fire extinguisher and a hose capable of reaching all areas of your property.
- **Emergency Kit:** Assemble a comprehensive emergency supply kit.
- **Family Plan:** Develop and rehearse a family evacuation procedure and communication plan.

During a Wildfire:

- **Stay Informed:** Monitor radio and television broadcasts for official information and instructions.
- **Report Fires:** If you spot a wildfire, call 911 immediately – do not assume it has already been reported.
- **Evacuation Procedures (If Directed):**
 - Activate interior/exterior lights to improve visibility.
 - Leave doors and windows unlocked for firefighter access.
 - Shut off gas supply.
 - Fill large containers with water (pools, cans, tubs).
 - Close all interior doors to prevent drafts.
 - If time allows, remove flammable items from inside and around the house.
 - Take your emergency kit.
- **Protective Gear:** Wear fire-resistant clothing covering arms and legs. Look for “fire retardant” labeling.

- **Reporting (Military/Government Personnel):** Once safe, report to your command and <https://adpaas.army.mil/>.

Post-Wildfire Actions:

- **Structural Inspection:** Thoroughly check the roof and attic for smoldering embers or active fires.
- **Fire Extinguishment:** Extinguish any fires found using stored water.
- **Continued Monitoring:** Maintain a vigilant fire watch for several hours, regularly inspecting for smoke or re-ignition.

Where to Find Additional Information

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): <https://www.ready.gov/wildfires>
- U.S. Fire Administration: <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/>
- Ready Army: <https://www.army.mil/ready>

It's up to you. Prepare strong. Get an emergency supply kit with enough supplies for at least three days, make an emergency plan with your family and be informed about what might happen. These fact sheets are intended to supplement predetermined plans and policies. Follow state, local, installation and command guidance related to threats and hazards.



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