

Wildfires can happen suddenly and spread quickly. Now's the time to put your wildfire preparation into action.

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During a Wildfire

**Preventative Actions** 

After a Wildfire

Cleaning Up



Responding correctly in the event of an active wildfire is key. Here are some response actions to take to help protect yourself and your loved ones.

#### **Get informed**

Do your best to know what's going on around you.

- Pay attention to text or email emergency alerts
  - o To find out what alerts are available in your area, search the Internet with your town, city, or county name and the word "alerts"
- Tune in to the TV, radio, or reputable social media sources for weather updates, emergency instructions, or evacuation orders
  - o NWS issues a fire weather watch when potentially dangerous fire weather conditions are possible over the next 12 to 72 hours



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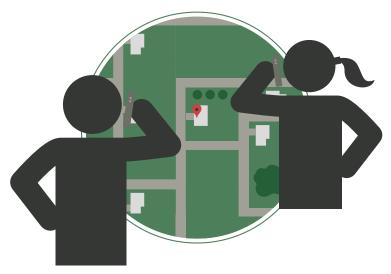


## During a Wildfire

#### **Contact and communicate**

Inform your out-of-town contact via phone or social media of your situation.

 Remind household members of your safe place to meet, should you be separated





#### **Evacuate**

Once you get the order to evacuate, leave right away. You may only have a small window of time to get out safely.

- Exit using your community's evacuation plan
  - o If roads are blocked, use your alternate escape route
  - o Keep headlights on if there is a lot of smoke present
  - o Watch for other vehicles and fleeing wildlife or livestock
- Notify your out-of-town contact where you're going, and when you've arrived

## **Preventative Actions**

If you have not received the order to leave your property, these actions can be taken only if it is safe to do so.

NOTE: Please consider the air quality. If there is a lot of smoke in the area, it's best to stay inside.

### CLEAR MATERIALS

Remove combustible materials within 5 feet of any structure.

- Patio furniture
- Firewood
- Pine needles
- Dead leaves

# **CLEAN GUTTERS**

Clear away any flammable materials like pine needles and dead leaves.

# WATER PROPERTY

Watering anywhere within 30 feet of structures can help discourage a wildfire.





### After a Wildfire

Even when a wildfire has passed, or it seems that you are no longer in danger, there are steps you should take to ensure your safety.

- If you evacuated, return home only when authorities say it is safe for you to do so
- Stay alert
  - o Frequently look throughout the house for smoke, sparks, or hidden embers
  - o Be sure to check the roof and the attic
  - o Evacuate immediately if you smell smoke

- Use caution around burned areas
  - o Hazards like hot spots, which can flare up without warning, may still exist



## Cleaning Up

Be sure to take care of yourself as you take care of your things.



 Wear a dust mask (NIOSH certified-respirator) and wet debris down to minimize breathing dust particles



• Take photos of any damage for insurance purposes



- Throw out any food that has been exposed to heat, smoke, or soot
- Do NOT use water that may be contaminated to:
  - o Wash hands
- o Wash dishes
- o Prepare food
- o Brush teeth
- o Make ice or baby formula



• Replace the air filter in your car