

AT-A-GLANCE: WILDFIRES

Fire Weather Watch: *Be prepared.* Upcoming weather conditions could result in extensive wildland fire occurrence or extreme fire behavior.

Red Flag Warning: *Take Action!* Be extremely careful with open flames. Issued when fire conditions are ongoing or expected to occur shortly.

PREPAREDNESS

Prepare **LONG** before the threat so your home is ready

- 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. <https://www.weather.gov/safety/wildfire-ready>
- Plan escape routes and make sure all those residing within the home know the plan of action.
- Review your insurance policies to ensure that you have adequate coverage for your home and personal property.
- Understand NWS forecast products, especially the meanings of watches and warnings.

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

- Pack your emergency items.
- Stay aware of the latest wildfire news to 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 storm news.
- **Follow instructions issued by local officials. Leave immediately if ordered!**
- **If NOT ordered to evacuation:**
 - Do not light campfires, bonfires, candles or anything else that could blow over and start a fire.
 - If you smoke, be sure to extinguish your cigarette or cigar before disposing of it. Never throw a burning item out a window.
 - Bag up trash, clippings and other easily flammable items.
 - Fill up your vehicle in case you need to evacuate.

ACT EARLY

- Follow your personal wildland fire action plan. Following your plan will not only support your safety, but it will allow firefighters to best maneuver resources to combat fire.
- Continue listening to a NOAA Weather Radio or the local news for the latest updates.
- If you were told to evacuation, 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.
- 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.

