

READY, SET, GO!

For more information, go to this link:

<https://readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/>

In California, wildfires are not a matter of “if” but “when”. Stay safe with this 3-step wildfire preparation plan.

GET READY

Defensible Space

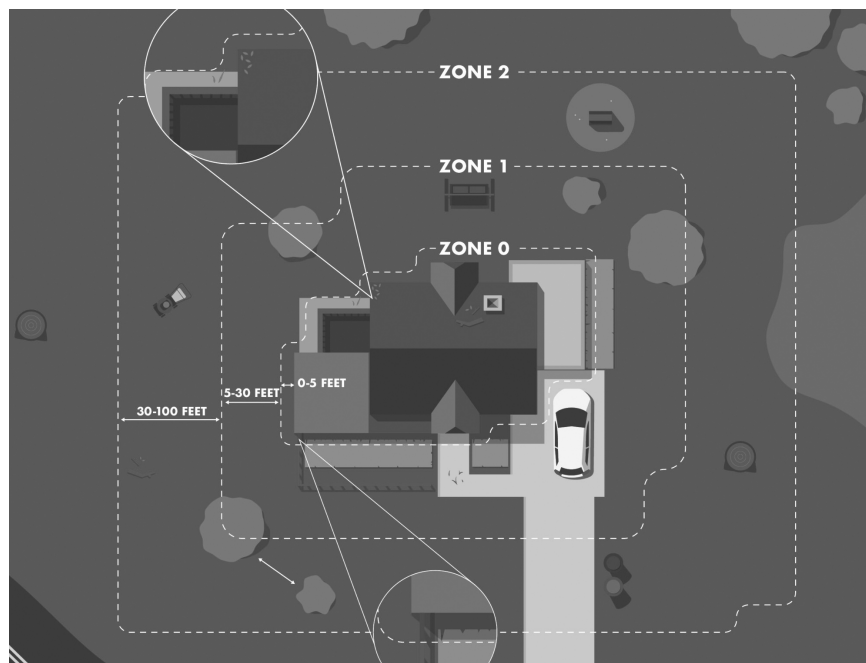
Defensible space is the buffer you create by removing dead plants, grass, and weeds, and thinning or limbing up shrubs and trees close to the home. This buffer helps to keep the fire away from your home. Fire smart landscaping contributes to making defensible space effective by surrounding your home with plants unlikely to catch fire. Flying embers are the leading cause of home destruction during wildfires, highlighting the critical importance of eliminating any vegetation or combustible materials that may easily ignite from these embers. When you submit an assessment through the form on our site, and provide an email address, CAL FIRE will email a detailed report.

Home Hardening

Wildfire Home Hardening is the term used to describe wildfire mitigation measures homeowners can utilize to resist the intrusion of flames or embers to their homes projected by wildfires.

Sustainable Landscaping

This involves using fire-resistant plants, proper spacing between vegetation, and selecting materials that are less likely to ignite. By incorporating these strategies, homeowners can maintain the aesthetic appeal of their properties while simultaneously reducing the risk of fire spread.



GET SET

Create your Wildfire Action Plan

Developing a well-thought-out Wildfire Action Plan is crucial for every household. Tailor your plan to address specific family needs and situations, ensuring everyone is well-prepared ahead of a wildfire.

Your Wildfire Action Plan should include:

- Meeting point: A predetermined meeting location outside high-risk areas to determine who has evacuated from the affected area.
- Escape routes: Several escape routes, known to all in your household. Practice these often so everyone in your family knows where to go.
- Animal arrangements: Specific arrangements for pets and larger animals, like horses and other livestock.
- Communication plan: A family communication strategy names someone outside the area to be the main contact point for all family members if you get separated or have trouble with phone networks.

The 6 P's of Evacuation

- People & pets
- Papers, phone numbers & important documents
- Prescriptions, vitamins & eyeglasses
- Pictures & irreplaceable memorabilia
- Personal computer, hard drive & disks
- "Plastic" (credit cards, ATM cards) & cash

Pre-wildfire evacuation planning & Guides for Parents & Guides for Seniors & Guides for those with Disabilities

<https://readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/prepare-your-family/>

Create Your 'Go Bag'

Ensure your wildfire 'Go Bag' includes:

- A 3-day supply of non-perishable food & 3 gallons of water per person
- A map with at least 2 evacuation routes
- Necessary prescriptions or medications
- A change of clothes & extra eyeglasses/contact lenses
- Extra car keys, credit cards, cash, or traveler's checks
- A first aid kit & sanitation supplies
- A flashlight & battery-powered radio with extra batteries
- Copies of important documents (birth certificates, passports, etc.)
- Pet food & water

Always have sturdy shoes and a flashlight near your bed, ready for sudden night evacuations.

If time allows, consider adding:

- Valuables that are easy to carry
- Family photos and irreplaceable items
- Personal computer data on hard drives and disks
- Chargers for cell phones and laptops

GO!

How to protect your home before evacuating

If you have time before evacuating, follow these steps to give your home the best chance of surviving the wildfire:

Inside the house

- Pack your 'Go Bag' ready to grab
- Check that your Wildfire Action Plan is up-to-date
- Know your community's emergency plan, evacuation routes, and destinations
- Close all windows and doors but leave them unlocked
- Take down flammable window treatments like shades and curtains, and close metal shutters
- Clear away light curtains
- Move anything that burns easily to the middle of rooms, away from windows and doors
- Turn off the gas at the meter and pilot lights
- Leave lights on for firefighters to see your house in smoke
- Switch off the air conditioning

Outside the house

- Bring in flammable items from outside, like patio furniture, toys, doormats, and trash bins. Alternatively, place them in your pool
- Shut off propane tanks
- Move grills and other propane BBQ appliances away from the house
- Attach garden hoses to outside taps for firefighter use and fill buckets with water to scatter around
- Don't leave sprinklers or water running as it can lower critical water pressure.
- Keep exterior lights on to make your home visible in smoky or dark conditions.
- Put your emergency kit in your car
- Park your car in the driveway, facing outwards, loaded and ready, with all doors and windows shut
- Have a ladder handy for firefighter roof access
- Seal attic and ground vents with plywood or commercial seals
- Keep an eye on the fire situation and don't wait for an evacuation order if you feel at risk
- Check with neighbors to ensure they're also prepared

Animals

- Keep pets close and ready to go
- Plan for farm animal evacuation early, arranging transport and safe locations

What to do if the power goes out

In the event of a power outage, especially during wildfire threats, it's important to stay calm and follow these simple steps:

- Keep fridge & freezer shut: This helps preserve food longer.
- Turn off gas & combustibles: Shut off gas lines and items like propane tanks.
- Avoid power lines: Stay at least 10 feet away from overhead lines and electrical equipment. Never touch them.
- Stay updated: Use a battery-powered radio or your cellphone for wildfire updates.

When to evacuate during a wildfire

If fire officials suggest evacuating, it's best to leave right away. This helps you avoid danger and keeps roads clear for firefighters. In big wildfires, there's no time for door-to-door warnings, so if you're told to go, do it fast to stay safe.

Following evacuation orders:

- Stay informed: You'll be advised of potential evacuations as early as possible. Listen to local radio or TV for updates from authorities.
- Officials decide: Fire officials decide when and where to evacuate based on the fire, wind, and terrain.
- Law enforcement role: Police enforce evacuation orders. Follow their directions right away.
- "Order" & "warning": These terms alert you to the significance of the danger. Other terms like "precautionary" and "immediate threat" might be used too.
- Act fast: In severe wildfires, there's no time to waste. If advised to leave, do so without delay.
- Don't wait for orders: It's safer to leave before a mandatory order is issued.
- Stay alert: You may be directed to temporary assembly areas to await transfer to a safe location.
- Help firefighters: Don't return home until fire officials notify you that it's safe to do so.

Tips if trapped at home:

- Stay calm
- Gather your family
- Use your cell phone to call 911
- Fill sinks and tubs with cold water
- Keep doors and windows closed but unlocked
- Stay inside, away from outside walls and windows

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