



# Wildfires

## Preparedness Empowers You It saves lives, property, and time.

Emergencies happen, often with little or no notice. By taking action beforehand you can be prepared for any emergency.

**Be Ready Navy!  
I am. Are you?**

Wildfires can start unexpectedly and spread quickly, often due to lightning strikes or accidents. 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

- 1 Be **informed** and be aware of your area's risk for wildfires.
- 2 Make an **evacuation plan** as a family.
- 3 Make an **emergency communication plan** in case family members are separated.
- 4 Practice fire safety by:
  - Installing smoke detectors on every level of your home.
  - Never leaving a fire (including a cigarette) unattended.
  - Avoiding open burning.
  - Keeping a ladder that will reach the roof.
- 5 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.
- 6 Regularly clean roof and gutters of debris.
- 7 Inspect chimneys at least twice a year.
- 8 Build an **emergency kit**.
- 9 Make sure you have a fire extinguisher as well as a hose that can reach all areas of the home.

### 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.

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- » 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.
- Once you are in a safe place, muster with your command if you are military or civilian personnel or a member of the selective reserves.

## What to Do After a Wildfire

- Avoid damaged or fallen power lines, poles, and downed wires.
- Wear leather gloves and heavy soled shoes to protect hands and feet.
- Check the roof and attic for smoldering embers or fires.
- Put out any fires with the water stored in containers.
- Wet debris down to minimize breathing dust particles.
- Do NOT use water that you think may be contaminated.
- Maintain a fire watch for several hours, periodically checking for fires or smoke throughout and around the house.
- If you evacuated, do not return home until Fire Marshals say it is safe to do so.
- After a declared emergency, register your needs with the Navy through the Navy Family Accountability and Assessment System (NFAAS) at <https://navyfamily.navy.mil> or call 1-877-414-5358 or 1-866-297-1971 (TDD).

## 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/wildfires](http://www.ready.gov/wildfires)