

READY TOGETHER FOUNDATION
COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS RESOURCE LIBRARY

RTF-006

Wildfire Preparedness Guide

A Practical Guide to Protecting Your Family Before, During, and After a
Wildfire

Building Resilient Communities Together

Wildfires Can Spread Quickly

Wildfires can develop and spread rapidly, especially during hot, dry, and windy conditions. They may threaten homes, businesses, schools, and entire communities with little warning.

Preparing before wildfire season can help protect your family, reduce stress during evacuations, and improve your ability to recover safely.

Preparation begins long before smoke appears.

Why Wildfire Preparedness Matters

Preparing for a wildfire helps your family:

- Stay informed about wildfire risks.
- Evacuate quickly and safely.
- Protect important documents and valuables.
- Reduce the risk of injury.
- Recover more quickly after an emergency.

Every family should have a wildfire evacuation plan.

Before a Wildfire

Take these steps before wildfire season begins.

- ☐ Prepare a Family Emergency Plan.
- ☐ Build and maintain an emergency kit.
- ☐ Know at least two evacuation routes from your neighborhood.
- ☐ Sign up for local emergency alerts.
- ☐ Keep important documents in a waterproof and portable folder.
- ☐ Prepare a "Go Bag" for every family member.
- ☐ Include your pets in your evacuation plan.

Preparedness today can save valuable time tomorrow.

Create Your Wildfire Go Bag

Every family member should have a backpack or bag ready to take if evacuation becomes necessary.

Include:

- ☐ Three days of clothing.
- ☐ Prescription medications.
- ☐ Water bottle.
- ☐ Non-perishable snacks.
- ☐ Flashlight.
- ☐ Portable phone charger.

- ☐ Copies of important documents.
- ☐ Personal hygiene items.
- ☐ Extra eyeglasses or contact lenses.
- ☐ Cash in small denominations.

Keep your Go Bag in an easy-to-reach location.

Prepare Your Home

Help reduce wildfire risk around your home.

- ☐ Remove dry leaves and debris from gutters.
- ☐ Trim trees and shrubs away from your home.
- ☐ Keep grass cut short.
- ☐ Move firewood away from buildings.
- ☐ Clear combustible materials from around your home.
- ☐ Know how to turn off gas and electricity if instructed.

Always follow local guidance on creating defensible space around your property.

When a Wildfire Threatens

Stay informed through official emergency alerts.

If evacuation is recommended:

- ☐ Leave immediately.
- ☐ Take your Go Bags.
- ☐ Bring pets with you.
- ☐ Close all windows and doors if time permits.
- ☐ Follow designated evacuation routes.
- ☐ Never delay evacuation to gather additional belongings.

Leaving early is often the safest option.

If You Must Evacuate

Before leaving:

- ☐ Wear long sleeves and long pants made from natural fibers if possible.
- ☐ Wear sturdy shoes.
- ☐ Keep your mobile phone fully charged.
- ☐ Inform a family member or friend where you are going.
- ☐ Follow instructions from emergency officials.

Never drive into heavy smoke or through closed roads.

After a Wildfire

Return home only when authorities say it is safe.

Once home:

- ☐ Check for hazards before entering.
- ☐ Watch for hot spots and damaged structures.
- ☐ Photograph property damage for insurance purposes.
- ☐ Avoid damaged utility lines.
- ☐ Wear gloves and sturdy shoes during cleanup.
- ☐ Continue monitoring official updates.

Recovery takes time—put safety first.

Preparing Children

Help children understand:

- ☐ What wildfires are.
- ☐ Why evacuations happen.
- ☐ Where the family meeting place is.
- ☐ What is inside their Go Bag.
- ☐ Who they should listen to during an emergency.

Practicing together helps reduce fear and builds confidence.

Preparing Pets

Your pets are part of your family.

Prepare:

- ☐ Food and water for several days.
- ☐ Medications.
- ☐ Leash and carrier.
- ☐ Vaccination records.
- ☐ Identification tags.
- ☐ Comfort items such as a blanket or toy.

Never leave pets behind during an evacuation.

Ready Together Action

Complete these three steps this week:

- ☐ Pack one emergency Go Bag.
- ☐ Identify two evacuation routes from your home.
- ☐ Register for local emergency alerts.

Prepared families act before emergencies happen.

Review Your Wildfire Plan

Review your wildfire preparedness:

- ☐ Before every wildfire season.
- ☐ After moving.
- ☐ After changes in your household.
- ☐ After replacing emergency supplies.

Preparedness is an ongoing responsibility.

About Ready Together Foundation

Ready Together Foundation is dedicated to building resilient communities through emergency preparedness, emergency relief and response, youth engagement, and outreach to vulnerable populations.

Our work focuses on:

- Community Emergency Preparedness
- Emergency Relief & Response
- Youth Preparedness & Leadership
- Vulnerable Population Outreach

Together, we are building stronger, safer, and more resilient communities.

Ready Together Foundation

Building Resilient Communities Together

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Preparedness is a journey, not a one-time event. Every small step you take today helps protect the people you care about tomorrow.