



# BE PREPARED FOR A WILDFIRE



**FEMA**

FEMA P-2143/August 2020

**Wildfires can ruin homes and cause injuries or death to people and animals.**

**A wildfire is an unplanned fire that burns in a natural area such as a forest, grassland, or prairie.**



**Often caused by humans or lightning**



**Can cause flooding or create problems with transportation, gas, power, and communications**



**Can happen anywhere, anytime. Risk increases with little rain and high winds**



**The Federal Government spends billions of dollars fighting wildfires each year**

## IF YOU ARE UNDER A WILDFIRE WARNING, GET TO SAFETY RIGHT AWAY

**Leave if told to do so.**



**Listen for emergency information and alerts.**

**If trapped, call 911.**



**Use N95 masks to keep particles out of the air you breathe.**

# HOW TO STAY SAFE

## WHEN A WILDFIRE THREATENS

### Prepare NOW

**Sign up for your community's warning system.** The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.

**Know your community's evacuation plans** and find several ways to leave the area. Drive the evacuation routes and find shelter locations. Have a plan for pets and livestock.

**Gather emergency supplies, including N95 respirator masks** that filter out particles in the air you breathe. Keep in mind each person's specific needs, including medication. Don't forget the needs of pets.

**Keep important documents** in a fireproof safe place. Create password-protected digital copies.

**Use fire-resistant materials to build, renovate, or make repairs.**

**Find an outdoor water source with a hose** that can reach any area of your property.

**Create a fire-resistant zone** that is free of leaves, debris, or flammable materials for at least 30 feet from your home.

**Review insurance coverage** to make sure it is enough to replace your property.

### Survive DURING

**Evacuate.** Leave immediately if authorities tell you to do so.

**If trapped, call 911** and give your location, but be aware that emergency response could be delayed or impossible. Turn on lights to help people find you.

**Listen to EAS, NOAA Weather Radio, or local alerting systems** for current emergency information and instructions.

**Use an N95 masks** to keep particles out of the air you breathe.

### Be Safe AFTER

**Listen to authorities** to find out if it is safe to return and whether water is safe to drink.

**Avoid hot ash, charred trees, smoldering debris, and live embers.** The ground may contain heat pockets that can burn you or spark another fire. Consider the danger to pets and livestock.

**Send text messages or use social media** to reach out to family and friends. Phone systems are often busy following a disaster. Make calls only in emergencies.

**Document property damage with photographs.** Conduct an inventory and contact your insurance company for assistance.

### Take an Active Role in Your Safety

Go to **ready.gov** and search for **wildfire**. Download the **FEMA app** to get more information about preparing for a **wildfire**. Find Emergency Safety Tips under Prepare.

