



5 Steps to Ready

Wildfires

Prepare for wildfires now, when there is time. During a disaster, you might have only minutes to make decisions. Act now so you and your family can stay safe.

1. Make a plan

- Fires can come very fast. Think about what everyone in your family will need if you have to leave your home quickly. Make a plan for everyone in your family, your pets and any farm animals.
- Pick more than one place to meet. Decide which place you will go first, second and third. Fire areas and evacuation routes may change.
- Make a list of people you need to call. Keep it in your wallet, on your phone and somewhere in your house where you can see it.
- Help family and neighbors who may need extra time or help to leave.
- Get ready for power or water outages. Learn how to open your garage or gates by hand. If you have a generator, know how to use it safely. Make a backup plan if someone in your home needs life support equipment.

2. Prepare your essentials

- Build an emergency kit and keep it in a bag that you can grab quickly.
 - Store enough food and water for at least three days.
 - Include food and water for pets and those with special diets.
 - Include a first aid kit, work gloves, flashlight, sanitation supplies (soap, hand sanitizer, etc.) and waterproof bags for protecting important items.
 - Make copies of important documents, such as health insurance, ID (passport, birth certificate and social security card), financial information (insurance policies, bank account records and a copy of your property deed). Store these in a waterproof container. Keep a copy of these documents on your phone, in the cloud or on a USB memory stick.
 - Add a battery-powered or hand-crank radio to receive emergency information during power outages.

3. Keep at least seven days of medication on hand

- Ask your pharmacist about extra medicine if needed.
- If your medicine needs to stay cold, ask your pharmacist what to do if the power goes out.
- Store medications in a waterproof container as part of your emergency kit.
- If you have heart or lung disease, talk with your doctor about when to leave the area and what to do to stay healthy.

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4. Protect your home against wildfire damage and smoke

- Keep homeowners or renters insurance.
- Make a video of your belongings for insurance.
- If you own a home, keep a clear space around your house. Cut plants, trees and brush that could catch fire.
- Think about getting a HEPA air purifier to clean smoke from the air. Don't use ones that use ozone. You can also read [All About Air Purifiers](#) to make a DIY box fan filter.



Do not return home until authorities say it is safe.

5. Stay informed

- Sign up for local emergency alerts on your phone. An early warning can give you the time you need to prepare for a fast-moving fire.
- Listen and watch air quality reports and health warnings about smoke.
- Keep an eye on people who are at higher risk from smoke (young children, older adults or people with health problems).
- If there is a fire near you:
 - Watch where the fire is moving
 - Follow evacuation orders
 - Be ready to leave quickly
 - Try to leave before everyone else, if possible, to avoid traffic
- Download the FEMA app for emergency alerts and the NOAA Weather Radio app.

Learn more at [ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) and [americares.org/ClimateClinics](https://www.americares.org/ClimateClinics)