

# Create Your Own Action Plan

Your Wildland Fire Action Plan must be prepared with all members of your household well in advance of a wildland fire. Use these checklists to help you get Ready and Set with situational awareness in the threat of wildland fire.

## Ready Get Ready

- Create an Action Plan that includes evacuation meeting locations and communication plans - rehearse it regularly. Include the evacuation of all pets and large animals, which may include horses and livestock, in your plan.
- Sign up for your local emergency notification system. Check your local fire department or emergency management agency websites for information on the system used in your area.
- Designate an emergency meeting location outside the wildland fire hazard area.
- Plan and practice several different evacuation routes.
- Have fire extinguishers on hand and teach your household how to use them.
- Ensure that everyone in your household knows where your gas, electric, and water main shut-off controls are located and how to use them.
- Assemble a Go Kit as recommended by the American Red Cross. Keep an extra kit in your vehicle. Check this page for a list of recommended emergency supplies.
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- Have a portable radio or scanner so you can stay updated on the fire and weather emergency announcements.

## EMERGENCY SUPPLIES LIST FOR GO KIT

The American Red Cross recommends every household have an emergency supply kit assembled long before a wildland fire or other emergency occurs. Use the checklist below to help assemble yours. For more information on emergency supplies visit [redcross.org/get-help](https://www.redcross.org/get-help).

- Three-day supply of water (one gallon per person, per day) and non-perishable food for household members (3 day supply).
- First aid kit and sanitation supplies, including toilet paper and baby wipes.
- Flashlight, battery-powered radio, and extra batteries.
- An extra set of car keys, credit cards, cash, or traveler's checks.
- Extra eyeglasses, contact lenses, prescriptions, and medications.
- Important household member documents and contact numbers, including insurance documents.
- Map marked with evacuation routes. It is important to have a printed map in case your phone dies. It may also be easier to see the printed map than a phone screen under smokey conditions.
- Easily carried valuables and irreplaceable items.
- Personal electronic devices and chargers.
- Keep a pair of old shoes and a flashlight handy in case of a sudden evacuation at night.

## Set Prepare and Be Aware

- Monitor fire weather conditions and fire status. Check your local fire department or emergency management websites and social media accounts for wildland fire information. Stay tuned to your TV or local radio stations for updates, including Red Flag Warnings in your area.
- Alert household and neighbors.
- Dress in appropriate clothing (i.e., clothing made from natural fibers, such as cotton, and work boots). Have goggles and a dry bandana or particle mask handy.
- Ensure your Go Kit includes all necessary items, such as a battery powered radio, spare batteries, emergency contact numbers, and drinking water.
- Remain close to your house, drink plenty of water, and ensure your household members and pets are accounted for and ready to leave.

### INSIDE CHECKLIST, IF TIME ALLOWS

- Close all windows and doors.
- Remove all shades and curtains from windows and ensure all blinds remain open, unless you have metal blinds. Close all metal blinds.
- Move furniture to the center of the room, away from windows and doors.
- Turn off pilot lights and air conditioning units.
- Leave your lights on so firefighters can see your house in smoky conditions

### OUTSIDE CHECKLIST, IF TIME ALLOWS

- Make sure combustible items are a safe distance away from the exterior of the house (e.g., patio furniture, children's toys, door mats, etc.) If you have time, place these items inside your garage or home where they will not become a hazard.

- Turn off propane tanks and other gas at the meter.
- Don't leave sprinklers on or water running. They can affect critical water pressure.
- Leave exterior lights on.
- Back your car into the driveway to facilitate a quick departure. Shut doors and roll up windows.
- Have a ladder ready to use to cover attic vents. Use pre-cut plywood or commercial seals. Use the same for ground vents. Do so in a safe manner, and only if time permits.
- Patrol your property and extinguish small fires, if you can do so safely, until you leave.

### IF YOU ARE TRAPPED: SURVIVAL TIPS

- If you have become trapped and cannot evacuate, call 9-1-1 immediately.
- Stay in your home, sheltering away from walls, until the fire passes or emergency personnel tell you differently. Follow their instructions and commands.
- Look for spot fires and extinguish if found inside house.
- Wear long sleeves, long pants, and a bandana made of natural fibers, such as cotton.
- Stay hydrated.
- Ensure you can exit the home if it catches fire. Remember, if it's hot inside the house, it is four to five times hotter outside. Be prepared.
- Fill sinks and tubs for an emergency water supply.
- Place wet towels under doors to keep smoke and embers out.
- After the fire has passed, check your roof and extinguish any fires, sparks, or embers if you are able to safely do so. Check the attic as well.

## Go! Act Early

Leaving early gives you and your household members the best chance of surviving a wildland fire. You also help firefighters by keeping roads clear of congestion, enabling them to move more freely and do their job in a safer environment. Be sure to follow the direction of your local authorities.

### WHEN TO LEAVE

Do not wait to be advised to leave if there is a possible threat to your home or evacuation route. Leave early enough to avoid being caught in fire, smoke, or road congestion. If you are advised to leave by local authorities, do not hesitate!

### WHERE TO GO

Go to a predetermined, low-risk area such as a relative's house, a Red Cross shelter or evacuation center, motel, etc.

### HOW TO GET THERE

Have several travel routes in case one route is blocked by the fire or by emergency vehicles. Choose the safest route away from the fire.

### WHAT TO TAKE

Take your Go Kit containing your household members' and pet's necessary items.

## REMEMBER THE 8 P'S!

- People & Pets
- Pictures & Photo Albums
- PC's
- Papers (important)
- Prescriptions & Medications (for your pets too)
- Plastics (credit cards)
- Personal Devices (phones and chargers)
- Passports & IDs



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# My Personal Wildland Fire ACTION PLAN

Write up your Wildland Fire Action Plan and post it in a location where every member of your household can see it. Rehearse it with your household.

During high-fire-danger days in your area, monitor your local media for information and be ready to implement your plan. Hot, dry, and windy conditions create the perfect environment for a wildland fire.

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Out-of-Area Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

## EVACUATION ROUTES

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

## WHERE TO GO

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## LOCATION OF GO KIT(S)

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## NOTES

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Contact your local fire department for more tips on preparing before a wildland fire.

