

# Wildfire Preparedness

## Highlights:

Preparing your  
Home

Evacuation

What to do if  
you become  
trapped

Emergency Kit  
Supply list



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With drought conditions persisting and the weather warming up in the west, wildfire in our area is becoming a matter of *When* rather than *If*. It's never too late to start thinking about how to prepare your home and family for the best chance of survival. As your fire department, we strive to save lives and property and be prepared for the unexpected. With your help, we can lessen the devastating impact of a wildfire.

## Get Ready!

- Create a 100 foot safety zone around your home.
- Clear flammable materials from rain gutters and roof.
- Trim tree branches at least 10 feet from roof.
- Replace flammable vegetation with less flammable plants.
- Use fire resistant materials for roofing and siding.
- Move wood piles away from your home.
- Make sure the hydrant near your home is accessible.
- Make sure your address is visible.
- Have a garden hose and ladder available that will reach your roof.
- Have an escape plan and know where to meet your family.
- Choose an out-of-area friend or relative as a check-in contact. Write his/her phone on the phone list inside.
- Review your homeowner's insurance policy, and prepare/update a list of your home's contents.
- Register for emergency alerting at <https://www.ecalert.org/index.php?CCheck=1>

## Get Set!



- Evacuate as soon as you are set.
- Alert family and neighbors.
- Dress in appropriate clothing (i.e., long pants, long sleeved shirt, goggles or glasses, hat and a dry bandana over your face. Cotton clothing is best.)
- Ensure that you have your emergency supply kit on hand that includes all necessary items, such as battery powered radio, spare batteries, emergency contact numbers, and ample drinking water.
- Tune in to any local radio or TV station for updates and information.
- Remain close to your house, drink plenty of water and keep an eye on your family and pets until you are ready to leave.



## GO!

- Citizens may be notified by fire personnel and/or law enforcement personnel if evacuation is necessary.
- Safely make your way out of the area.
- Red Cross will establish evacuation centers.
- If evacuated, contact local Red Cross to provide information about your status so that friends and family can be informed and your safety ensured.
- After an area has been evacuated, the area will remain closed until the threat has passed.
- MOST IMPORTANTLY, if you feel unsafe, don't wait. Follow the checklist items and GET OUT!

*"If you lose a home, that is catastrophic to you. But now we're looking at "we don't want to lose a community,"*

*El Paso County Sheriff Terry Maketa, Waldo Canyon Fire.*"

### Checklist:

What to do if a wildfire is approaching

- Park vehicles facing outward.
- Put valuables, important documents and essentials, such as medications, in your vehicle.
- Secure pets and prepare them for transport.
- Close shutters, windows, heavy drapes, and fireplace dampers.
- Remove thin drapes and other flammables near windows.
- Turn off gas at meter or propane tank.
- Safely make your way out of the area.
- Drive with headlights on.

### If you become trapped: Survival Tips

In your home:

- Stay inside until the fire passes.
- Close all windows.
- Keep all doors closed, but unlocked.
- Keep family together and remain calm.
- Stay hydrated.
- Place wet towels under doors to keep smoke and embers out.
- And remember, if it gets hot in your house, it will be much hotter outside.

In your car:

- Park away from vegetation.
- Roll up the windows.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a dry cloth to protect your airway.
- Stay in car until the fire passes.
- If vehicle catches on fire, exit only after the fire has passed.

# Assemble a supply Kit

**At a minimum, you should have the basic supplies listed below:**

- Water—one gallon per person, per day (3-day supply for evacuation, 2-week supply for home)
- Food—non-perishable, easy-to-prepare items (3-day supply for evacuation, 2-week supply for home)
- Flashlight
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio (NOAA Weather Radio, if possible)
- Extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Medications (7-day supply) and medical items
- Multi-purpose tool
- Sanitation and personal hygiene items
- Copies of personal documents (medication list and pertinent medical information, proof of address, deed/lease to home, passports, birth certificates, insurance policies)
- Cell phone with charger
- Family and emergency contact information
- Extra cash
- Emergency blanket
- Map(s) of the area

**Consider the needs of all family members and add supplies to your kit.**

**Suggested items to help meet additional needs are:**

- Medical supplies (hearing aids with extra batteries, glasses, contact lenses, syringes, etc)
- Baby supplies (bottles, formula, baby food, diapers)
- Games and activities for children
- Pet supplies (collar, leash, ID, food, carrier, bowl)
- Two-way radios
- Extra set of car keys and house keys
- Manual can opener

