

WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS PLANNING

Southern Oregon

Emergencies can occur quickly and without warning. Keep yourself and your family safe by being prepared before an emergency or disaster happens.



Why This Guide is Important Key Elements

A Wildfire Action Plan contains several key elements:

- ✓ Family Evacuation Plan
- ✓ Family Communications Plan
- ✓ Emergency Supply Kit
- ✓ Pet Disaster Plan

These planning elements contain detailed information your family will need if a wildfire approaches.

The Six P's

People and Pets

Papers, Phone Numbers, & Important Documents

Prescriptions, Vitamins, & Eyeglasses

Pictures and Irreplaceable Memorabilia

Personal Computer

Plastic -Credit/Debit Cards, Cash



Before the Fire

Develop a plan for your family before the fire occurs. By following the simple tips in this document designed to help you during an emergency, you will be much better prepared for the safety of you and your loved ones.

A chalkboard with the text "Are you ready?!" written on it in white chalk. The text is written in a casual, handwritten style. The exclamation point is large and prominent.

Before the Fire Helpful Tips

- ▶ Post emergency phone numbers by every phone in your home, and update the emergency contact list in your cell phone.
- ▶ Make sure driveway entrances and your house number or address are clearly marked.
- ▶ Identify and maintain an adequate water source outside your home, such as a small pond, cistern, well or swimming pool.
- ▶ Set aside household items that can be used as fire tools: a rake, ax, handsaw or chain saw, bucket and shovel. You may need to fight small fires before emergency responders arrive.
- ▶ Select building materials and plants that resist fire.
- ▶ Clean roofs and gutters at least twice a year.

How Should I Prepare My Family?

Develop and Practice your Plan.

Individuals and households play an important role in the overall emergency management strategy of a community. Understanding that wildfire is a natural and commonly-occurring event in the area will help individuals and families focus on preparedness activities. Learning what actions to take before, during and after a wildfire increases individual and family resilience and speeds the recovery process.

Family Evacuation Plan

Preparedness starts with gaining knowledge to become informed and then taking appropriate action prior to an emergency. An excellent way to get your family involved is to dedicate a few hours for everyone to gather supplies and assemble kits together. This provides a great opportunity to discuss



what everyone will do during an emergency event, whether you are evacuating or sheltering in place. The time together will allow you to develop

your emergency plans, discuss special needs and plan for your pets or animals.

Plan and practice two ways out of your neighborhood in case your primary route is blocked. Select a place for family members to meet outside your neighborhood in case you cannot get home or need to evacuate. You may also want to inquire about emergency plans at work, schools and daycares. If you live in an apartment or condominium, ask the manager about emergency plans for the community. Discuss a plan with your neighbors so that you can work together and help each other during an emergency.

Family Communications Plan

Your family may not be together when a disaster occurs so it is important to make plans in advance. Loved ones worry about each other during disaster situations. This guide contains a tool to help you complete your Family Communications Plan (pp. 8-9). Be sure to identify an out-of-town contact to be the communication center and share information with your loved ones. When everyone checks in with the contact person, worry and anxiety will be reduced. Complete a contact card for each adult family member and keep these cards handy in a wallet, purse, briefcase, etc. Also complete contact cards for each child in your family and put the cards in backpacks or book bags. Make sure you know the school's evacuation plans and emergency procedures. Overviews of all evacuation and communication plans should be kept in a visible place at your home, workplace and school, and should be reviewed regularly with family members.

Family Communication Tips

- Identify an out-of-town contact, such as a friend or relative, for household members to notify during an emergency. With busy phone lines, it may be easier to make a long-distance phone call than a local one, so an out-of-town contact may be in a better position to communicate among separated family members.
- Be sure every member of your family knows the phone number.
- Encourage family members to use text messaging, if possible, as it can often get around network disruptions when a phone call might not connect.
- Subscribe to alert services. Many communities now have systems that will send instant text alerts or e-mails for bad weather, road closures, local emergencies, etc.

Pets and Animals Disaster Planning

Preparation

As you make supply kits and emergency and evacuation plans for your household, be sure to make plans for your pets, service animals and/or livestock. Many emergency shelters will not allow pets, other than service animals.

During Evacuation

1. If there is a wildfire in your area and evacuation warnings are imminent, consider confining pets to one room so that you can easily locate them if you need to evacuate quickly. When you evacuate, take your pet, even if you think you will only be gone for a few hours.
2. Evacuate early; do not wait for a mandatory evacuation order.
3. Watch animals closely and keep them under your direct control. Hidden embers and hot spots could burn your pets' paws or hooves.
4. If you are unable to evacuate your animals, post a visible advisory on the front door so emergency workers will know there is a pet inside.
5. Inside your home, post your contact information and evacuation destination in a prominent place such as the refrigerator. Be sure that each animal has at least a 3-day supply of food and water. Make sure that your cat or dog is wearing a collar and identification that is up-to-date and visible at all times. Include your cell phone number on your pet's tag.
6. If you cannot get home to your pets, ask a trusted neighbor, friend or family member to check on them, if possible. Give him or her a key to your house or barn and make sure this back-up caretaker is comfortable and familiar with your pets. Let them know where your pet food and water is located and if the pets need any medication.

Pets and Animals

Not all emergency shelters will allow pets, but there are often special shelters available for pets and large animals.



Emergency Supply Kit

Planning What You Need to Take

Prepare an Emergency Supply Kit

People and Pets

Is your family ready? Do you have an evacuation plan in place?

Papers, Phone Numbers and Important Documents

Make sure all of your important papers are stored together in a convenient location so you can easily gather them and take them with you.

Prescriptions, Vitamins and Eyeglasses

If you take medications, make sure you have enough packed for the entire time you might be evacuated.

Pictures and Irreplaceable Memorabilia

Many things we own can be replaced, but some cannot because of their sentimental value. Make sure you have identified these things and have them packed before you have to evacuate.

Personal Computer

Pack your computer and hard drives before the evacuation so you do not lose that valuable information.

Plastic

Have credit/debit cards and cash

- 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, deed/lease to home, birth certificates, insurance policies)
- Cell phone with charger
- Family communication plan
- Cash
- Emergency blanket
- Map(s) of the area
- Other essential items that could not be replaced if they were destroyed

Helpful Tips for your Kit

- Have one kit in your home as well as a smaller one in your car and workplace in case a disaster prevents you from going home.
- Prepare supplies for a minimum of 72 hours
- Create a separate “go-bag” just for prescriptions, important documents, and items of personal importance.
- Store important documents such as insurance policies, deeds, property records and other important papers in a safe place, such as a safety deposit box away from your home. Make copies of important documents for your **emergency supply kit**. Having such information handy can make the registration process for FEMA benefits smoother should you be involved in a presidentially-declared disaster.
- Waiting to prepare an emergency supply kit or “go-bag” until a wildfire starts in your area can put you at additional risk by delaying your evacuation. Assemble your kit now so your family is prepared to evacuate at a moment’s notice.
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Assemble an Emergency Supply Kit

An Emergency Supply Kit should contain the following items:

- Water: One gallon per person, per day (3-day supply)
- Food: Non-perishable, easy-to-prepare items (3-day supply)
- Flashlight
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio (NOAA Weather Radio, if possible)

If There are Reports of a Wildfire in Your Area

Stay close to your home, drink plenty of water, and keep your eye on your family and pets. Stay tuned to your TV or radio and keep track of the latest developments.

Get Set to Go

Exterior

Prepare the outside of your home before the fire approaches.

- Gather up flammable items from your yard (patio furniture, children's toys, trash cans, etc.)
- Seal up ground and attic vents with pre-cut plywood or some other type of commercial seal.
- Turn off any propane tanks.
- Connect garden hoses
- Turn on your exterior lights

Inside your home

- Shut windows and doors. Leave them unlocked. Remove any flammable window coverings and close the shutters and heavy-duty shades.
- Any flammable furniture should be moved to the center of the room away from windows and doors.
- Shut off the air conditioning and attic fans.
- Leave your lights on so firefighters can see your house in the smoky conditions.

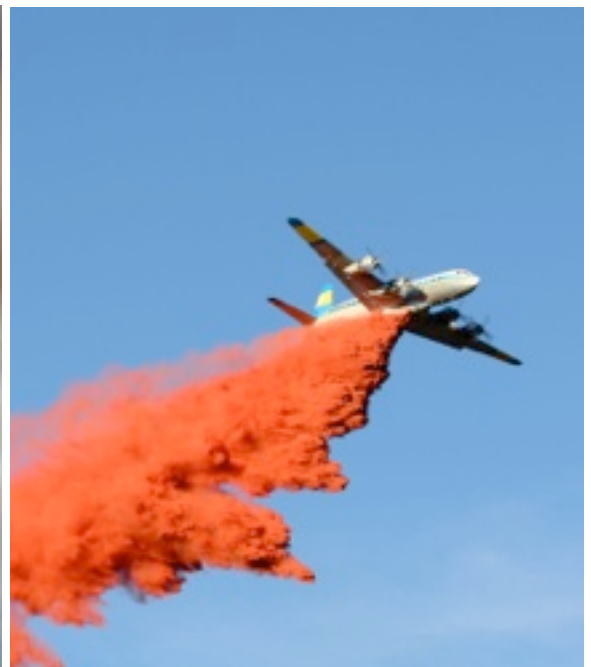
There is smoke in the air - this is the time when you need to maintain your Situational Awareness.

Remember – in the end, your safety and the safety of your family should be your number one concern.

- Your actions affect more people than just yourself.
- It is a high-risk gamble to stay in place during an evacuation, affecting family, firefighters, police officers, etc.
- Evacuate early. You don't want to have to resort to last-ditch survival tips. Be ready to leave at a moment's notice.
- Listen to local radio and television stations for updated emergency information.
- Always back your car into the garage or park it in an open space facing the direction of escape.
- Arrange for temporary housing at a friend or relative's home outside the threatened area.

Get set to go!

Stay close to home, drink plenty of water, and keep an eye on your family and pets. Remember - in the end, your safety and the safety of others should be your number one concern. When it comes to evacuation, don't wait.



Returning Home

Your family's safety comes first. Do not enter your home until fire officials say it is safe.

Use caution when entering burned areas as hazards may still exist, including hot spots, which can flare up without warning.

Avoid damaged or fallen power lines, poles and downed wires. Watch for ash pits and mark them for safety—warn family and neighbors to keep clear of the pits also. It will be important to you to follow public health guidance on safe cleanup of fire ash and safe use of masks.

As you begin looking at your property and start to clean up, wet down debris to minimize breathing dust particles. Wear leather gloves and heavy soled shoes to protect hands and feet. Be aware of hazards. Cleaning products, paint, batteries and damaged fuel containers need to be disposed of properly to avoid risk. Next, ensure your food and water are safe:

- Discard any food that has been exposed to heat, smoke or soot.
- Do NOT use water that you think may be contaminated to wash dishes, brush teeth, prepare food, wash hands, make ice or make baby formula.

Inspecting Your Home

- If the power is out, check to make sure the main breaker is on. Fires may cause breakers to trip. If the breakers are on and power is still not present, contact the utility company.
- Inspect the roof immediately and extinguish sparks or embers. Wildfires may have left

- ▶ Debris should be wetted down to minimize health impacts from breathing dust particles
- ▶ Use a two-strap dust particulate mask with nose clip and coveralls for protection.
- ▶ Wear leather gloves to protect hands from sharp objects while removing debris.
- ▶ Wear rubber gloves when working with outhouse remnants, plumbing fixtures, and sewer pipes. They can contain high levels of bacteria.
- ▶ Hazardous materials such as kitchen and bathroom cleaning products, paint, batteries, contaminated fuel and damaged fuel containers need to be properly handled to avoid risk. Check with local authorities for hazardous disposal assistance.
- ▶ If you have a propane tank system, contact a propane supplier. Turn off valves on the system, and leave valves closed until the supplier inspects your system.

burning embers that could reignite. For several hours afterward, recheck for smoke and sparks throughout the home, including the attic. The winds of wildfires can strip a tree of all of its leaves or needles. Healthy deciduous trees are resilient and may produce new branches and leaves as well as sprouts at the base of the tree. Evergreen trees may survive when partially scorched, but are at risk for bark beetle attacks.

As you Recover

Recovery from a disaster or emergency event may continue well after it is over. It is normal to have reactions as you deal with the emotional and psychological effects of the event. It is important to allow people to react in their own way. It may be helpful to talk with family, friends or a religious or spiritual advisor about what happened and how you feel about it. It may be good to spend time doing things other than watching or listening to news of the disaster. Activities such as volunteering at a local shelter, blood bank or food pantry to assist emergency victims may help your own recovery as well as helping others.

Family Communications Plan Contact Sheet

Primary Contact

Out-of-Town Contact Name _____
 Email _____
 Phone _____
 Phone _____

Family Members

Name _____
 Date of Birth _____
 Social Security Number _____
 Important Medical Info _____
 Special Needs _____

Name _____
 Date of Birth _____
 Social Security Number _____
 Important Medical Info _____
 Special Needs _____

Name _____
 Date of Birth _____
 Social Security Number _____
 Important Medical Info _____
 Special Needs _____

Name _____
 Date of Birth _____
 Social Security Number _____
 Important Medical Info _____
 Special Needs _____

Name _____
 Date of Birth _____
 Social Security Number _____
 Important Medical Info _____
 Special Needs _____

Where to go in an emergency

Write down where your family spends the most time: work, school and other places you frequent. Schools, daycare providers, workplaces and apartment buildings should all have site-specific emergency plans.

Home

Address _____
 Phone _____
 Neighborhood Meeting Place _____
 Regional Meeting Place _____

Employer

Address _____
 Phone _____
 Evacuation Location _____

Employer

Address _____
 Phone _____
 Evacuation Location _____

School

Address _____
 Phone _____
 Evacuation Location _____

School

Address _____
 Phone _____
 Evacuation Location _____

Other place you frequent:

Address _____
 Phone _____
 Evacuation Location _____

Other place you frequent:

Address _____
 Phone _____
 Evacuation Location _____

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

Contact Name: _____
 Telephone: _____
 Out-of-Town Contact Name: _____
 Telephone: _____
 Neighborhood Meeting Place: _____
 Meeting Place Telephone: _____

PLAN DE COMUNICACIONES

Nombre del contacto: _____
 Teléfono: _____
 Nombre del contacto fuera de la ciudad: _____
 Teléfono: _____
 Lugar de reunión del vecindario: _____
 Teléfono del lugar de reunión: _____

Make a note of important contacts, phone numbers and policy numbers. Dial 9-1-1 for emergencies!

Important Info	Name	Telephone #	Policy #
Doctor			
Doctor			
Pharmacist			
Medical Insurance			
Homeowner/Rental Insurance			
Veterinarian/Kennel			
Other			
Other			
Other			