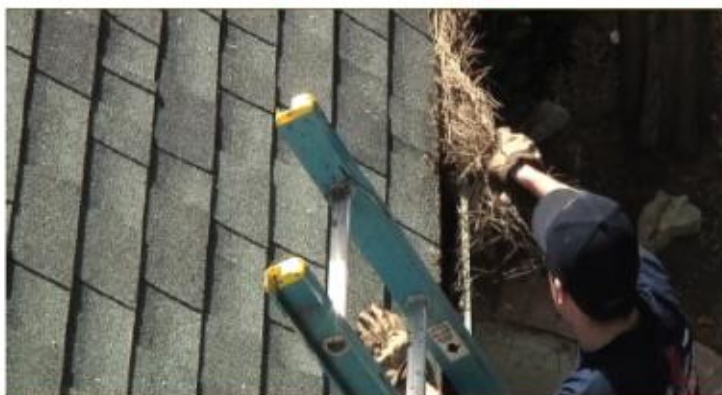


# READY, SET, GO!

## Create Your Own Action Guide

Now that you've done everything you can to protect your house, it's time to prepare your family. Your **Wildland Fire Action Guide** must be prepared with all members of your household well in advance of a fire. Use these checklists to help you gain an awareness of the threat and to prepare your Wildland Fire Action Guide. For more information on property and home preparedness before a fire threat, review the preparedness checklist on the Firewise Communities' website, [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org)

## Ready – Preparing for the Fire Threat



- Create a **Family Disaster Plan** that includes meeting locations and communication plans and rehearse it regularly. Include in your plan the evacuation of large animals such as horses.
- Have fire extinguishers on hand and train your family how to use them.
- Ensure that your family knows where your gas, electric and water main shut-off controls are and how to use them.
- Plan several different evacuation routes.
- Designate an emergency meeting location outside the fire hazard area.
- Assemble an emergency supply kit as recommended by the American Red Cross.
- Appoint an out-of-area friend or relative as a point of contact.
- Maintain a list of emergency contact numbers posted near your phone and in your emergency supply kit.
- Keep an extra emergency supply kit in your car in case you can't get to your home because of fire.
- Have a portable radio or scanner so you can stay updated on the fire.

# Set – Situational Awareness when a Fire Starts

- Evacuate as soon as you are set!
- Alert family 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 that you have your emergency supply kit on hand that includes all necessary items, such as a battery-powered radio, spare batteries, emergency contact numbers, and ample drinking water.
- Stay tuned to your TV or local radio stations for updates, or check the fire department website.
- Remain close to your house, drink plenty of water, and keep an eye on your family and pets until you are ready to leave.

## INSIDE CHECKLIST

- Shut all windows and doors, leaving them unlocked.
- Remove flammable window shades and curtains, and close metal shutters.
- Remove lightweight curtains.
- Move flammable furniture to the center of the room, away from windows and doors.
- Shut off gas at the meter. Turn off pilot lights.
- Leave your lights on so firefighters can see your house under smoky conditions.
- Shut off the air conditioning.



## OUTSIDE CHECKLIST

- Gather up flammable items from the exterior of the house and bring them inside (patio furniture, children's toys, door mats, etc.) or place them in your pool.
- Turn off propane tanks. Small tanks can be removed or drained.
- Don't leave sprinklers on or water running - they can waste critical water pressure.
- Leave exterior lights on.
- Back your car into the driveway. Shut doors and roll up windows.
- Have a ladder available.
- Patrol your property and extinguish all small fires until you leave.
- If there are fires that you cannot extinguish with a small amount of water or in a short period of time, call 9-1-1.
- Seal attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or commercial seals if time permits.

## IF YOU ARE TRAPPED: SURVIVAL TIPS

- Shelter away from outside walls.
- Bring garden hoses inside house so embers don't destroy them.
- Patrol inside your home for spot fires and extinguish them.
- Wear long sleeves and long pants 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).
- 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.
- Check inside the attic for hidden embers.



# Go – Leave Early

By leaving early, you give your family 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.

## WHEN TO LEAVE

Leave early enough to avoid being caught in fire, smoke or road congestion. Don't wait to be told by authorities to leave. In an intense wildland fire, they may not have time to knock on every door. If you are advised to leave, don't hesitate! Practice being able to leave your home in 5 minutes or less.

## WHERE TO GO

Leave to a predetermined location (it should be a low-risk area, such as a well-prepared neighbor, a Red Cross shelter, motel, etc.)

## HOW TO GET THERE

Have several travel routes in case one route is blocked by the fire or by emergency vehicles, and equipment. Choose an escape route away from the fire.

## WHAT TO TAKE

Take your emergency supply kit containing your family and pet's necessary items.



## EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

The American Red Cross recommends every family 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 the American Red Cross website at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).

- Three-day supply of water (one gallon per person per day).
- Non-perishable food for all family members and pets (three-day supply).
- First aid kit.
- Flashlight, battery-powered radio, and extra batteries.
- An extra set of car keys, credit cards, cash or traveler's checks.
- Sanitation supplies.
- Extra eyeglasses or contact lenses.
- Important family documents and contact numbers.
- Map marked with evacuation routes.
- Prescriptions or special medications.
- Family photos and other irreplaceable items.
- Easily carried valuables.
- Personal computers (information on hard drives and disks).
- Chargers for cell phones, laptops, etc.

Note: Keep a pair of old shoes and a flashlight handy in case of a sudden evacuation at night.

# My Personal Wildland Fire Action Guide

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

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:

Your Out-of-State Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Evacuation Routes: \_\_\_\_\_

Where to Go: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Emergency Supply Kit: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_





# READY, SET, GO!

## Residential Safety Checklist Tips To Improve Family and Property Survival During A Wildland Fire

| Home  | Yes                      | No                       |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Does your home have a metal, composition, or tile (or other non-combustible) roof with capped ends and covered fascia?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Are the rain gutters and roof free of leaves, needles and branches?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Are all vent openings screened with 1/8 inch (or smaller) mesh metal screen?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Are approved spark arrestors on chimneys?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Does the house have non-combustible siding material?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Are the eaves "boxed in" and the decks enclosed?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Are the windows made of at least double-paned or tempered glass?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Are the decks, porches and other similar areas made of non-combustible material and free of easily combustible material (e.g. plastic furniture, propane tanks)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. Is all firewood at least 30 feet from the house?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

| Defensible Space   | Yes                      | No                       |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Is dead vegetation cleared to the recommended defensible space area? (Consider adding distance due to slope of property.) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Is there separation between shrubs?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Are ladder fuels removed?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Is there a clean and green area extending at least 30 feet from the house?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Is there a non-combustible area within five feet of the house?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Is there separation between trees and crowns?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

| Emergency Access  | Yes                      | No                       |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Is the home address visible from the street?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Is the home address made of fire-resistant materials?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Are street signs present at every intersection leading to the house?                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Are street signs made of fire-resistant materials?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Is flammable vegetation within 10 feet of the driveway cleared and are overhanging obstructions removed? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. If a long driveway is present, does it have a suitable turnaround area?                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Ready, Set, Go!  
[www.wildlandfireRSG.org](http://www.wildlandfireRSG.org)

