



# Guide to Wildfire Safety

[YourLocalSecurity.com](http://YourLocalSecurity.com)

# Wildfire Safety Tips

Wildfires are most common in dry areas, especially near forests, rural communities, or mountains. Often, wildfires are triggered by accidents or lightning, and sometimes they go unnoticed at first. Typically, a wildfire will spread quickly, destroying trees, brush, and homes in its path.

If you live in an area with a wildfire risk, prevention starts with how you build your home and design your landscape. Choose fire-resistant bushes and trees with moist and green leaves, instead of trees with dry needles. On a day-to-day basis, make sure to keep your grass hydrated and well cared-for, so that dry grass doesn't accumulate.

You should have a plan for where your family should meet, and where you will stay, if a fire threatens your home. If you evacuate, make sure to gather your important documents, such as medical history, insurance cards, and government identification. You should also bring an emergency kit and lots of water. Any natural disaster is a harrowing experience, but having a plan in place will help make the evacuation process easier.

# How to Prepare Your Home

Wildfires can be devastating, but there are steps you can take beforehand to help guard your home against them. Here are some tips:

## Building Materials

Fire-prevention starts at a basic level, with the materials used to construct your home. Use fire-resistant building materials when building or remodeling your home. Good materials include stucco, fiber cement, and wall siding.

## Shrubs

Plant fire-resistant shrubs and trees. Some fire-resistant shrubs include Redosier Dogwood, Oceanspray, and Azaleas. Hearty, fire-resistant trees include Maple, Willow, and Alder. Highly-flammable plants include Juniper, Evergreen, and Eucalyptus—you want to avoid plants with dry leaves or those that produce lots of debris.

## Lawn

Keep your lawn hydrated and maintained. Dry grass easily catches on fire, so you should cut it when it appears. Clear and remove wood piles and dry vegetation, since these materials can provide fuel for wildfires.

## Fence

Instead of constructing a wood fence, opt for a fire-resistant wall made out of brick or stucco. Building a sturdy perimeter barrier around your home may help protect it from fire and embers.

## Gutter

Clean your roof and gutter frequently. The dry leaves and debris that collect on the roof and gutter can easily catch fire from flying embers.

## Deck

Dead vegetation loves to collect under decks in your yard. Regularly remove dead vegetation, so that it doesn't become a pile of kindling. You can also use 1/8 inch mesh screens beneath porches, decks, floor areas, and the home itself if you want to prevent debris from piling up in hard-to-reach places.

## Vents

Cover all vents with metal mesh. This will help prevent embers or smoke from entering your home through the vents.

## Windows

Install dual-pane windows, which don't melt easily. Sturdy windows can help secure the outside of your home against wildfires.

# Hose

Have a garden hose that's long enough to reach any area of your home and the surrounding property. If there are any small fires that can be easily contained, you'll have a hose that can reach the entire property.

Especially if you live in an area with a high danger of wildfires, you should take time to prepare for the natural disaster. Taking steps to help ensure the safety of your home and loved ones will give you greater peace of mind.

Don't be caught off guard—have a plan and safety measures in place in case a wildfire affects your home.

# Conclusion

If your home is in danger of wildfire damage, take the necessary precautions for yourself and your family. You'll have peace of mind knowing you've done everything in your control to strengthen the safety of your home.

If you have any questions, or if you're looking for additional safety tips, visit [www.yourlocalsecurity.com](http://www.yourlocalsecurity.com).

# Recommended Resources

## **Fire-resistant Plants and Home Landscapes:**

[http://www.firefree.org/images/uploads/FIR\\_FireRes-Plants\\_07.pdf](http://www.firefree.org/images/uploads/FIR_FireRes-Plants_07.pdf)

## **Wildfire Preparedness and Safety:**

<http://www.ready.gov/wildfires>

## **Tips for Homeowners:**

[http://www.firewise.org/~media/Firewise/Files/Pdfs/Toolkit/FW\\_TK\\_Tips.pdf](http://www.firewise.org/~media/Firewise/Files/Pdfs/Toolkit/FW_TK_Tips.pdf)

## **Fortifying Your Home:**

[http://www.readyforwildfire.org/hardening\\_your\\_home](http://www.readyforwildfire.org/hardening_your_home)

# Emergency Kit Checklist

Every household should have an emergency kit, and you should customize it to your family's individual needs, but here are the essentials you should include:

## Food and Water

- Water (three gallons per person, per day)
- 3-day supply of non-perishable food
- Water purification tablets

## Communication and Tools

- Battery-powered radio
- Waterproof matches
- Flashlight with batteries
- Wrench or pliers
- Pocket knife
- Whistle

## First Aid and Hygiene

- First aid kit
- Moist sanitary wipes
- Medications

# Other

- Photocopies of important documents in a waterproof bag or container
- Cash
- Sleeping bags or blankets
- Cell phone charger, inverter, or solar charger

Once you've gathered all the supplies for your emergency kit, you should put it in an easy-to-grab carrying case, such as a backpack. Keep your emergency kit in a place where it's easily accessible, and make sure the entire family knows where it's kept. You'll feel better prepared for any emergency or disasters that come your way.

Visit [www.yourlocalsecurity.com](http://www.yourlocalsecurity.com) for more disaster preparedness information.



# Emergency Communication Plans

# Emergency Contact Info

Fill out the information on this page and post it in your home or write it down on a cards for each family member to carry in their wallet, purse, briefcase, or backpack.

Home Address:

Home Phone:

(   ) -

## Parent/Guardian phone numbers

Parent 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: (   ) -                      Cell: (   ) -

Work: (   ) -                      Work: (   ) -

## Child contact info

List child names followed by the school they attend and cell-phone #'s, if available:

## Other Emergency Contacts

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (   ) -

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (   ) -

# Meeting Plan in the Event of an Emergency

When disaster strikes, know where you are and where you're supposed to be to meet up with your family members.

**IF** you're in the house or the immediate neighborhood (backyard, front yard, garage, next door neighbor, driveway, etc).

**THEN** everyone will meet at:

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*(ex: in front of the light post outside, fire hydrant, etc.)*

**IF** you're far away from home, get in contact with your family ASAP using the *numbers on the Emergency Contact Info page*.

**IF** you're at school, follow the emergency plan that your school has in place.

School Emergency Plan: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Emergency Pet Plan

What will you do with your pets in the event of a natural disaster?

## Important Considerations:

- Keep a current photo of your pet in case you lose them.
- Make sure ID tags are up-to-date and securely fastened to your pet's collar.
- Have a secure pet carrier, leash, or harness for your pet in case he/she panics.
- Take pet food, bottled water, meds, vet records, cat litter/pan, can opener, food dish, first aid kit, and other supplies you might need for your pet in an emergency situation.

Plan:

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# Emergency Plan for Seniors and Disabled Family Members

## Important Considerations

- Make sure that you've assigned someone to check on seniors or disabled neighbors.
- Keep specialized items ready, including extra wheelchair batteries, oxygen, catheters, medication, food for service animals, and any other items you might need.
- Keep a list of the type and model numbers of the medical devices they require.
- Make provisions for medications that require refrigeration.
- Make arrangements for any assistance to get to a shelter.

Plan:

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**For more information on this  
and other natural disaster  
safety information, visit:  
[www.yourlocalsecurity.com](http://www.yourlocalsecurity.com)**