

Wild Fire Safety Checklist

More and more people are making their homes in woodland settings, rural areas or remote mountain sites. There, residents enjoy the beauty of the environment but face the very real danger of wild fires. Wild fires often begin unnoticed. They spread quickly, igniting brush, trees and homes. In a wild fire, every second counts!

Supplies to take with you if you need to evacuate:

- 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)
- 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 chargers
- Family and emergency contact information
- Extra cash
- Emergency blanket
- Map(s) of the area
- Other essential items that could not be replaced if they were destroyed

What should I do to prepare ahead of time?



- ☐ Learn about wild fire risks in your area.
- ☐ Talk with members of your household about wild fires—how to prevent them and what to do if one occurs.
- ☐ Post emergency phone numbers by every phone in your home.
- ☐ 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, hand saw 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.
- ☐ Regularly clean roofs and gutters.

Plan ahead and stay as safe as possible during a wild fire.

- ☐ 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.
- ☐ Identify someone who is out of the area to contact if local phone lines are not working.

What should I do if there are reports of wild fires in my area?



- ☐ 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.
- ☐ Confine pets to one room so that you can find them if you need to evacuate quickly.
- ☐ Arrange for temporary housing at a friend or relative's home outside the threatened area.

Limit exposure to smoke and dust.

- ☐ Listen and watch for air quality reports and health warnings about smoke.
- ☐ Keep indoor air clean by closing windows and doors to prevent outside smoke from getting in.
- ☐ Use the recycle or re-circulate mode on the air conditioner in your home or car. If you do not have air conditioning and it is too hot to stay inside with closed windows, seek shelter elsewhere.
- ☐ When smoke levels are high, do not use anything that burns and adds to indoor air pollution, such as candles, fireplaces and gas stoves. Do not vacuum because it stirs up particles that are already inside your home.
- ☐ If you have asthma or another lung disease, follow your health care provider's advice and seek medical care if your symptoms worsen.

Returning home after a wild fire ...



- ☐ 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.
- ☐ Watch animals closely and keep them under your direct control. Hidden embers and hot spots could burn your pets' paws or hooves.
- ☐ Follow public health guidance on safe cleanup of fire ash and safe use of masks.
- ☐ Wet debris down to minimize breathing dust particles.
- ☐ Wear leather gloves and heavy soled shoes to protect hands and feet.
- ☐ Cleaning products, paint, batteries and damaged fuel containers need to be disposed of properly to avoid risk.

Ensure your food and water are safe.

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

Let Your Family Know You're Safe

If your community has experienced a wild fire, or any disaster, register on the American Red Cross Safe and Well Web site available through [RedCross.org](https://www.redcross.org) to let your family and friends know about your welfare. If you don't have Internet access, call 1-866-GET-INFO to register yourself and your family.

Emergency Preparedness Checklist



Federal Emergency
Management Agency



American
Red Cross

The next time disaster strikes, you may not have much time to act. Prepare now for a sudden emergency.

Learn how to protect yourself and cope with disaster by planning ahead. This

checklist will help you get started. Discuss these ideas with your family, then prepare an emergency plan. Post the plan where everyone will see it—on the refrigerator or bulletin board.

For additional information about how to prepare for hazards in your community, contact your local emergency management or civil defense office and American Red Cross chapter.

Emergency Checklist

Call Your Emergency Management Office or American Red Cross Chapter

- ☐ Find out which disasters could occur in your area.
- ☐ Ask how to prepare for each disaster.
- ☐ Ask how you would be warned of an emergency.
- ☐ Learn your community's evacuation routes.
- ☐ Ask about special assistance for elderly or disabled persons.

Also...

- ☐ Ask your workplace about emergency plans.
- ☐ Learn about emergency plans for your children's school or day care center.

Create an Emergency Plan

- ☐ Meet with household members to discuss the dangers of fire, severe weather, earthquakes and other emergencies. Explain how to respond to each.
- ☐ Find the safe spots in your home for each type of disaster.

- ☐ Discuss what to do about power outages and personal injuries.
- ☐ Draw a floor plan of your home. Mark two escape routes from each room.
- ☐ Show family members how to turn off the water, gas and electricity at main switches when necessary.
- ☐ Post emergency telephone numbers near telephones.
- ☐ Teach children how and when to call 911, police and fire.
- ☐ Instruct household members to turn on the radio for emergency information.
- ☐ Pick one out-of-state and one local friend or relative for family members to call if separated during a disaster (it is often easier to call out-of-state than within the affected area).
- ☐ Teach children your out-of-state contact's phone numbers.
- ☐ Pick two emergency meeting places.
 - 1) A place near your home in case of a fire.
 - 2) A place outside your neighborhood in case you cannot return home after a disaster.
- ☐ Take a basic first aid and CPR class.
- ☐ Keep family records in a water and fire-proof container.

Prepare a Disaster Supplies Kit

Assemble supplies you might need in an evacuation. Store them in an easy-to-carry container such as a backpack or duffle bag.

Include:

- ☐ A supply of water (one gallon per person per day). Store water in sealed, unbreakable containers. Identify the storage date and replace every six months.
- ☐ A supply of non-perishable packaged or canned food and a non-electric can opener.
- ☐ A change of clothing, rain gear and sturdy shoes.
- ☐ Blankets or sleeping bags.
- ☐ A first aid kit and prescription medications.
- ☐ An extra pair of glasses.
- ☐ A battery-powered radio, flashlight and plenty of extra batteries.
- ☐ Credit cards and cash.
- ☐ An extra set of car keys.
- ☐ A list of family physicians.
- ☐ A list of important family information; the style and serial number of medical devices such as pacemakers.
- ☐ Special items for infants, elderly or disabled family members.

Home Hazard Hunt

In a disaster, ordinary items in the home can cause injury and damage. Anything that can move, fall, break or cause a fire is a potential hazard.

- ☐ Repair defective electrical wiring and leaky gas connections.
- ☐ Fasten shelves securely and brace overhead light fixtures.
- ☐ Place large, heavy objects on lower shelves.
- ☐ Hang pictures and mirrors away from beds.
- ☐ Strap water heater to wall studs.
- ☐ Repair cracks in ceilings or foundations.
- ☐ Store weed killers, pesticides and flammable products away from heat sources.
- ☐ Place oily polishing rags or waste in covered metal cans.
- ☐ Clean and repair chimneys, flue pipes, vent connectors and gas vents.

If You Need to Evacuate

- ☐ Listen to a battery powered radio for the location of emergency shelters. Follow instructions of local officials.

- ☐ Wear protective clothing and sturdy shoes.
- ☐ Take your Disaster Supplies Kit.
- ☐ Lock your house.
- ☐ Use travel routes specified by local officials.

If you are sure you have time ...

- ☐ Shut off water, gas and electricity, if instructed to do so.
- ☐ Let others know when you left and where you are going.
- ☐ Make arrangements for pets. Animals may not be allowed in public shelters.

Prepare an Emergency Car Kit

Include:

- ☐ Battery powered radio, flashlight and extra batteries
- ☐ Blanket
- ☐ Booster cables
- ☐ Fire extinguisher (5 lb., A-B-C type)
- ☐ First aid kit and manual
- ☐ Bottled water and non-perishable high energy foods such as granola bars, raisins and peanut butter

- ☐ Maps, Shovel, Flares
- ☐ Tire repair kit and pump

Fire Safety

- ☐ Plan two escape routes out of each room.
- ☐ Practice fire drills at least twice a year.
- ☐ Teach family members to stay low to the ground when escaping from a fire.
- ☐ Teach family members never to open doors that are hot. In a fire, feel the bottom of the door with the palm of your hand. If it is hot, do not open the door. Find another way out.
- ☐ Install smoke detectors on every level of your home. Clean and test them at least once a month. Change batteries at least once a year.
- ☐ Keep a whistle in each bedroom to awaken household in case of fire.
- ☐ Check electrical outlets. Do not overload outlets.
- ☐ Purchase and learn how to use a fire extinguisher (5 lb., A-B-C type).
- ☐ Have a collapsible ladder on each upper floor of your house.
- ☐ Consider installing home sprinklers.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's Community and Family Preparedness Program and the American Red Cross Community Disaster Education Program are nationwide efforts to help people prepare for disasters of all types. For more information, please contact your local emergency management office and American Red Cross chapter. This brochure and other preparedness materials are available by calling FEMA at 1-800-480-2520, or writing: FEMA, P.O. Box 2012, Jessup, MD 20794-2012. Publications are also available on the World Wide Web at:

FEMA's Web site: <http://www.fema.gov>

American Red Cross Web site: <http://www.redcross.org>

Your Local Contact is:

L-154
ARC 4471
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Emergency Plan

Out-of-State Contact

Name _____

City _____

Telephone (Day) _____ (Evening) _____

Local Contact

Name _____

Telephone (Day) _____ (Evening) _____

Nearest Relative

Name _____

City _____

Telephone (Day) _____ (Evening) _____

Family Work Numbers

Father _____ Mother _____

Other _____

Emergency Telephone Numbers

In a life threatening emergency, dial 911 or the local emergency medical services system number

Police Department _____

Fire Department _____

Hospital _____

Family Physicians

Name _____ Telephone _____

Name _____ Telephone _____

Name _____ Telephone _____

Reunion Locations

1. Right outside your home _____

2. Away from the neighborhood, in case you cannot return home _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Route to try first _____

Escape Plan

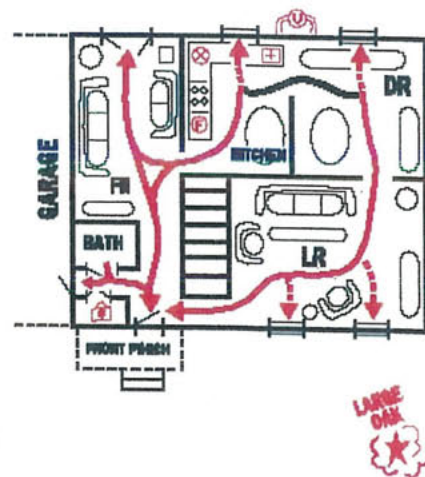
In a fire or other emergency, you may need to evacuate your house, apartment or mobile home on a moment's notice. You should be ready to get out fast.

Develop an escape plan by drawing a floor plan of your residence. Using a black or blue pen, show the location of doors, windows, stairways, and large furniture. Indicate the location of emergency supplies (Disaster Supplies Kit), fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, collapsible ladders, first aid kits and utility shut off points. Next, use a colored pen to draw a broken line charting at least two escape routes from each room. Finally, mark a place outside of the home where household members should meet in case of fire.

Be sure to include important points outside such as garages, patios, stairways, elevators, driveways and porches. If your home has more than two floors, use an additional sheet of paper. Practice emergency evacuation drills with all household members at least two times each year.

Example:

Floor one



Be Red Cross Ready

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For more information on disaster and emergency preparedness, visit RedCross.org.

Be Red Cross Ready

Pets and Disaster Safety Checklist

Our pets enrich our lives in more ways than we can count. In turn, they depend on us for their safety and well-being. The best way to ensure the safety of your family is to be prepared with a disaster plan. If you are a pet owner, that plan includes your pets. Being prepared can help save lives.

Learn First Aid for Your Pets

Dogs and cats are more than pets—they're family. And just like any other family member, pets deserve to be cared for and protected. That's why the American Red Cross has developed Dog First Aid and Cat First Aid, comprehensive guides to help keep pets healthy and safe. From basic responsibilities, like spaying/neutering and giving medications, to managing cardiac emergencies and preparing for disasters, these guides offer information pet owners can trust.

Contact your local chapter to purchase guide books and first aid kits or log on to the Red Cross Store to see all available products.

How can I prepare?



Plan to take your pets with you in an evacuation. If it is not safe for you to stay, it is not safe for them either.

- ☐ Know which hotels and motels along your evacuation route will accept you and your pets in an emergency. Call ahead for reservations if you know you may need to evacuate. Ask if no-pet policies could be waived in an emergency.
- ☐ Most Red Cross shelters cannot accept pets because of health and safety concerns and other considerations. Service animals that assist people with disabilities are allowed in Red Cross shelters.
- ☐ Know which friends, relatives, boarding facilities, animal shelters or veterinarians can care for your animals in an emergency. Prepare a list with phone numbers.
- ☐ Although your animals may be more comfortable together, be prepared to house them separately.
- ☐ Include your pets in evacuation drills so that they become used to entering and traveling in their carriers calmly.
- ☐ Make sure that your pet's vaccinations are current and that all dogs and cats are wearing collars with securely fastened, up-to-date identification. Many pet shelters require proof of current vaccinations to reduce the spread of disease.
- ☐ Consider having your pet "microchipped" by your veterinarian.

What should I do?



Assemble a portable kit with emergency supplies for your pets.

- ☐ Keep items in an accessible place and store them in sturdy containers so that they can be carried easily. Your kit should include—
 - Sturdy leashes, harnesses and/or carriers to transport pets safely and ensure that they can't escape.
 - Food, drinking water, bowls, cat litter/pan and a manual can opener.
 - Medications and copies of medical records stored in a waterproof container.
 - A first aid kit.
 - Current photos of you with your pet(s) in case they get lost. Since many pets look alike, this will help to eliminate mistaken identity and confusion.
 - Information on feeding schedules, medical conditions, behavior problems, and the name and number of your veterinarian in case you have to foster or board your pets.
 - Pet beds and toys, if easily transportable.

Know what to do as the disaster approaches.

- ☐ Often, warnings are issued hours, even days, in advance. At the first hint of disaster, act to protect your pet.
- ☐ Call ahead to confirm emergency shelter arrangements for you and your pets.
- ☐ Ensure that all pets are wearing collars with securely fastened, up-to-date identification.
- ☐ Check that your pet disaster supplies are ready to take at a moment's notice.
- ☐ Bring pets inside so you won't have to search for them if you need to leave quickly.

After a disaster ...



- ☐ The behavior of pets may change dramatically after a disaster, becoming aggressive or defensive, so be aware of their well-being and protect them from hazards to ensure the safety of other people and animals.
- ☐ Watch your animals closely and keep them under your direct control as fences and gates may have been damaged.
- ☐ Pets may become disoriented, particularly if the disaster has affected scent markers that normally allow them to find their home.
- ☐ Be aware of hazards at nose and paw or hoof level, particularly debris, spilled chemicals, fertilizers and other substances that might not seem to be dangerous to humans.
- ☐ Consult your veterinarian if any behavior problems persist.

Emergency action plans for your family should include your animals—all of your animals.

For information on disaster planning and emergency actions to take for livestock, horses, birds, reptiles or other small animals, such as gerbils or hamsters, please visit RedCross.org, the Humane Society of the United States (www.HSUS.org) or Ready.gov.

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Power Outage Checklist

Sudden power outages can be frustrating and troublesome, especially when they last a long time. If a power outage is 2 hours or less, you need not be concerned about losing your perishable foods. For prolonged power outages, though, there are steps you can take to minimize food loss and to keep all members of your household as comfortable as possible.

Energy Conservation Recommendations

- ❑ Turn off lights and computers when not in use.
- ❑ Wash clothes in cold water if possible; wash only full loads and clean the dryer's lint trap after each use.
- ❑ When using a dishwasher, wash full loads and use the light cycle. If possible, use the rinse only cycle and turn off the high temperature rinse option. When the regular wash cycle is done, just open the dishwasher door to allow the dishes to air dry.
- ❑ Replace incandescent light bulbs with energy-efficient compact fluorescent lights.

How do I prepare for a power outage?



To help preserve your food, keep the following supplies in your home:

- ❑ One or more coolers—Inexpensive Styrofoam coolers work well.
- ❑ Ice—Surrounding your food with ice in a cooler or in the refrigerator will keep food colder for a longer period of time during a prolonged power outage.
- ❑ A digital quick-response thermometer—With these thermometers you can quickly check the internal temperatures of food to ensure they are cold enough to use safely.

Put together an emergency preparedness kit with these supplies in case of a prolonged or widespread power outage:

• 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 (NOTE: Do not use candles during a power outage due to the extreme risk of fire.) • 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, deed/lease to home, birth certificates, insurance policies) • Cell phone with chargers • Family and emergency contact information • Extra cash

- ❑ If someone in your home is dependent on electric-powered, life-sustaining equipment, remember to include backup power in your evacuation plan.
- ❑ Keep a non-cordless telephone in your home. It is likely to work even when the power is out.
- ❑ Keep your car's gas tank full.

What should I do during a power outage?



Keep food as safe as possible.

- ❑ Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible. First use perishable food from the refrigerator. An unopened refrigerator will keep foods cold for about 4 hours.
- ❑ Then use food from the freezer. A full freezer will keep the temperature for about 48 hours (24 hours if it is half full) if the door remains closed.
- ❑ Use your non-perishable foods and staples after using food from the refrigerator and freezer.
- ❑ If it looks like the power outage will continue beyond a day, prepare a cooler with ice for your freezer items.
- ❑ Keep food in a dry, cool spot and keep it covered at all times.

Electrical equipment

- ❑ Turn off and unplug all unnecessary electrical equipment, including sensitive electronics.
- ❑ Turn off or disconnect any appliances (like stoves), equipment or electronics you were using when the power went out. When power comes back on, surges or spikes can damage equipment.
- ❑ Leave one light turned on so you'll know when the power comes back on.
- ❑ Eliminate unnecessary travel, especially by car. Traffic lights will be out and roads will be congested.

Using generators safely

- ❑ When using a portable generator, connect the equipment you want to power directly to the outlets on the generator. Do not connect a portable generator to a home's electrical system.
- ❑ If you are considering getting a generator, get advice from a professional, such as an electrician. Make sure that the generator you purchase is rated for the power that you think you will need.

What should I do when the power comes back on?



- ❑ Do not touch any electrical power lines and keep your family away from them. Report downed power lines to the appropriate officials in your area.

Throw out unsafe food.

- ❑ Throw away any food that has been exposed to temperatures 40° F (4° C) for 2 hours or more or that has an unusual odor, color or texture. When in doubt, throw it out!
- ❑ Never taste food or rely on appearance or odor to determine its safety. Some foods may look and smell fine, but if they have been at room temperature too long, bacteria causing food-borne illnesses can start growing quickly. Some types of bacteria produce toxins that cannot be destroyed by cooking.
- ❑ If food in the freezer is colder than 40° F and has ice crystals on it, you can refreeze it.
- ❑ If you are not sure food is cold enough, take its temperature with the food thermometer. Throw out any foods (meat, poultry, fish, eggs and leftovers) that have been exposed to temperatures higher than 40° F (4° C) for 2 hours or more, and any food that has an unusual odor, color or texture, or feels warm to touch.

Caution: Carbon Monoxide Kills

- ❑ Never use a generator, grill, camp stove or other gasoline, propane, natural gas or charcoal-burning devices inside a home, garage, basement, crawlspace or any partially enclosed area. Locate unit away from doors, windows and vents that could allow carbon monoxide to come indoors.
- ❑ The primary hazards to avoid when using alternate sources for electricity, heating or cooking are carbon monoxide poisoning, electric shock and fire.
- ❑ Install carbon monoxide alarms in central locations on every level of your home and outside sleeping areas to provide early warning of accumulating carbon monoxide.
- ❑ If the carbon monoxide alarm sounds, move quickly to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door.
- ❑ Call for help from the fresh air location and remain there until emergency personnel arrive to assist you.

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For more information on disaster and emergency preparedness, visit RedCross.org.

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American Red Cross Emergency Contact Card

Get a kit. Make a plan. Be informed.

Directions:

- * Print out a card for every member of your household.
- * Fill in your emergency contact information.
- * Carry this card with you to reference in the event of a disaster or other emergency.

Health Care Provider: _____

Poison Control Center: 800-222-1222


Ambulance: Call 9-1-1 or _____

Fire Dept.: Call 9-1-1 or _____

Police: Call 9-1-1 or _____

Important Phone Nos.

Emergency Contact Card




Name: _____

Phone: _____

Home Address: _____

People to Call or Text in an Emergency



Out-of-Area Contact Person: _____

Phone: _____


Meeting Place Outside of Neighborhood: _____

Emergency Contact Card

Name: _____


Phone: _____

Home Address: _____



American
Red Cross

People to Call or Text in an Emergency



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Out-of-Area Contact Person: _____

Phone: _____

Meeting Place Outside of Neighborhood: _____

Visit [RedCross.org](https://www.RedCross.org) for more valuable information about creating an emergency communications plan, putting together an emergency preparedness kit and for other important preparedness information.