

WILDFIRE PROTECTION CHECKLIST

Before, During and After: Be Completely Prepared

You will give yourself and your family a better chance of escaping harm during a wildfire by taking as many of the precautions outlined in this brochure as possible. But, these steps are only the beginning. To protect yourself as completely as possible, here are some added suggestions:

before a wildfire strikes:

✓	Know where your gas, electric and water main shut-off controls are and how to turn them off if there is a leak or electrical short. Also, know how to use a fire extinguisher. Make sure all adult and teenage members of your family know how to shut off each utility and to use the extinguisher.
✓	Become familiar with your community's disaster-preparedness plans and create a family plan. Know where the closest police, fire and emergency medical facilities are located.
✓	Plan several different escape routes from your home and neighborhood and designate an emergency meeting place for the family to reunite. Establish a contact point to communicate with concerned relatives.
✓	Put together an emergency kit that includes at least a three-day supply of drinking water and food that needs no refrigeration and, generally, no cooking; emergency cooking equipment, if required; a portable NOAA weather radio; first aid supplies and medications; basic tools, such as a wrench, a flashlight and gloves; portable lanterns and batteries; credit cards and cash; and important documents, including insurance policies.
✓	Talk to your neighbors about wildfire safety. Plan how the neighborhood could work together before, during and after a wildfire. Make a list of your neighbors' skills such as medical or technical. Consider how you would help neighbors who have special needs such as elderly or disabled persons. Make plans to take care of children who may be on their own if parents can't get home.
✓	Periodically review your homeowner's insurance policy with your insurance agent or company to make sure that, if you are the victim of a disaster, you have enough coverage to rebuild your home and life.

during a wildfire:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	If you are warned that a wildfire is threatening your area, listen to your portable radio for reports and evacuation information. Follow the instructions of local officials.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Back your car into the garage or park it in an open space facing the direction of escape. Shut car doors and roll up windows. Leave the key in the ignition or in another easily accessible location.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Close garage windows and doors, but leave them unlocked. Disconnect automatic garage door openers.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Confine pets to one room. Make plans to care for your pets in case you must evacuate.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Arrange temporary housing outside the threatened area.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	When advised to evacuate, do so immediately.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wear protective clothing – sturdy shoes, cotton or woolen clothing, long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, gloves and a handkerchief to protect your face.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Take your emergency kit.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lock your home.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Notify your relatives and the local officials that you have left and where you can be reached.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Follow the evacuation route that your local officials have identified. If no official route exists, choose a route away from fire hazards. Watch for changes in the speed and direction of the fire and smoke.

after a wildfire strikes:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Listen to and follow the advice and recommendations of the local aid organizations, including the emergency management office, the fire department and the utility companies.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Check for hazards, such as gas or water leaks and electrical shorts. Turn off damaged utilities. Have the fire department or gas and electric companies turn the utilities back on when the area is secured.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Check for injuries and administer first aid as needed.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Check your food and water supplies. Do not eat anything from open containers near shattered glass.

If you are SURE you have the time, take additional steps to protect your home:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Close windows, vents, doors, venetian blinds and heavy drapes. Remove lightweight curtains.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shut off gas at the meter. Turn off pilot lights.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Move flammable furniture into the center of the home away from windows and sliding-glass doors.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Turn on a light in each room to increase the visibility of your home in heavy smoke.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Seal attic and ground vents.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Turn off propane tanks.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Place combustible patio furniture inside.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Connect the garden hose to outside taps.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Place lawn sprinklers on the roof and near aboveground fuel tanks. Wet the roof.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wet or remove shrubs within 15 feet of the home.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gather fire tools, including a rake, axe, hand/chainsaw, bucket and shovel.