

Fire Safety Tips



Wildfire Safety Tips

- If you see a wildfire and haven't received evacuation orders yet, call 9-1-1. Don't assume that someone else has already called.
- If ordered to evacuate during a wildfire, do it immediately- make sure and tell someone where you are going and when you have arrived.
- Many communities have text or email alerting systems for emergency notifications. To find out what alerts are available in your area, search the internet with your town, city, or county name and the word "alerts."
- If you or someone you are with has been burned, call 9-1-1 or seek help immediately; cool and cover burns to reduce chance of further injury or infection.
- Use fire-resistant or non-combustible materials on the roof and exterior structure of your home.

Fire Weather Watch

- A fire weather watch means that dangerous fire weather conditions are possible over the next 12 to 72 hours.
- Update your phone number and e-mail address with your electric power company so you can be served faster in the event of an outage.

- Have your emergency outage kit stocked and readily available.
- Turn on your TV/radio. You'll get the latest weather updates and emergency instructions.
- Know where to go. If you are ordered to evacuate, know the route to take and have a plan of where you will go. Check-in with your friends and family.
- Keep your car fueled, in good condition, and stocked with emergency supplies and a change of clothes.

During The Wildfire

- Seek temporary housing at a friend's or relative's house outside of the threatened area.
- Wear protective clothing—sturdy shoes, cotton or woolen clothes, long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, gloves, and a handkerchief to protect your face.
- Close all shutters, blinds, or heavy noncombustible window coverings to reduce radiant heat. Close all doors inside the house to prevent draft. Open the damper on your fireplace, but close the fireplace screen.
- Shut off any natural gas, propane, or fuel oil supplies at the source.

- Connect garden hoses. Fill any pools, hot tubs, garbage cans, tubs, or other large containers with water.
- Place lawn sprinklers on the roof and near above-ground fuel tanks. Wet the roof.
- Disconnect any automatic garage door openers so that doors can still be opened by hand if the power goes out. Close all garage doors.
- Place valuable papers, mementos, and anything “you can’t live without” inside your car, ready for quick departure. Any pets still with you should also be put in the car.
- Move flammable furniture into the center of your home, away from the windows and sliding-glass doors.
- Turn on outside lights and leave a light on in every room to make the house more visible in heavy smoke.
- Leave doors and windows closed but unlocked. It may be necessary for firefighters to gain quick entry into your home to fight the fire.
- If advised to evacuate, do so immediately. Take your Emergency Outage Kit, lock your home, and choose a route away from the fire hazard. Watch for changes in the speed and direction of the fire and smoke. Tell someone when you left and where you are going.
- Go to a designated public shelter if you have been told to evacuate or you feel it is unsafe to remain in your home.

After A Wildfire

- Return home only when authorities say it is safe.
- Stay away from downed power lines and debris. Treat all fallen wires, and anything touching them, as though they are energized. Immediately report downed lines to your electric company.
- For several hours after the fire, maintain a “fire watch.” Check and re-check for smoke, sparks or hidden embers throughout the house, including the roof and the attic.
- Use caution when entering burned areas as hazards may still exist, including hot spots, which can flare up without warning. Evacuate immediately if you smell smoke.
- Wear a National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) certified-respirator and wet debris down to minimize breathing dust particles.
- Discard any food that has been exposed to heat, smoke or soot.
- Do not use water that you think may be contaminated.

If Your Power Is Out

- Report your outage immediately to your local electric company. Don’t rely on your neighbors to report your outage.
- Remain patient. Every company has a detailed plan for restoring electrical service after a power outage. Typically, one of the first steps a company takes—to prevent injuries and fires—is to make sure that power is no longer flowing through downed lines. Restoration then proceeds based on established priorities, which you can learn about on EEI’s Web site, www.eei.org.

Source: www.Ready.gov, a website operated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)