



Edison Electric  
INSTITUTE

# Wildfire Safety Tips



## Prepare for a Wildfire

- A fire weather watch means that dangerous fire weather conditions are possible over the next 12 to 72 hours. A Red Flag Warning is a higher alert that means dangerous fire weather conditions are either occurring or will shortly. Extreme caution is urged by all residents, because a simple spark can cause a major wildfire.
- Update your phone number and e-mail address with your electric company.
- Have several ways to receive alerts. Download the FEMA app and receive real-time alerts from the National Weather Service for up to five locations nationwide. Sign up for community alerts in your area and be aware of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and the Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA).
- Charge all cell phones and other battery-powered devices. Print out emergency contact information in case you lose power.
- Have your Emergency Outage Kit stocked and readily available.
- Make sure your car is fueled and stocked with emergency supplies and a change of clothes. Ensure you have face coverings, hand sanitizer, and other essential items to protect you and your family during the pandemic if you must evacuate.
- 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 on your friends, family, and neighbors.

## During a Wildfire

- If you see a wildfire and haven't received evacuation orders yet, call 911. Don't assume that someone else has already called.
- Turn on your TV/radio. You'll get the latest weather updates and emergency instructions.
- 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 your house to prevent draft. Open the damper on your fireplace, but close the fireplace screen.
- Shut off all natural gas, propane, and 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.

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- Move flammable furniture into the center of your home, away from windows and 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.
- Place valuable papers, mementos, and anything you can't live without inside your car, ready for quick departure.
- If advised to evacuate, do so immediately. Go to a designated public shelter if you have been told to evacuate or you feel it is unsafe to remain in your home. 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.
- If you or someone you are with has been burned, call 911 and seek help immediately; cool and cover burns to reduce chance of further injury or infection.
- For hours after the fire, maintain a fire watch. Monitor 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 drink water that you think may be contaminated.

## 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 or call 911.

## 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](http://www.eei.org).

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