

DISASTER PREP GUIDE

WILDFIRES



Annual **FIRE SEASON** is now
two months
longer than it was
30 YEARS AGO.¹

Western states
most frequently experience
wildfires, but they can occur in any
WILDERNESS AREA.²

Wildfires may ignite at
any time.
Individual communities often
have **DESIGNATED**
WILDFIRE SEASONS.³

BEFORE

- **Use caution.** Know potential fire hazards associated with campfires, grills and burning yard debris. Make sure your fire extinguisher is accessible and each family member knows how to use it.
- **Have a plan.** Know your evacuation route. Have a designated place to stay in case you cannot return immediately.
- **Store insurance info safely.** Make regular updates to your homeowners or renters insurance policy and home inventory. Store both in a secure place, such as a fireproof safe, a safe deposit box or online. Keep information for your insurance agent and insurance company on hand.

DURING

- **Stay up-to-date.** Monitor news and if possible, subscribe to text or email alerts in your community.
- **Evacuate quickly.** If ordered to evacuate during a wildfire, do so immediately. Remember the “Six Ps of Evacuation: People, Pets, Prescriptions, Papers, Personal Needs and Priceless Items.
- **Call 911.** Provide the location of the fire and a description of the situation.

AFTER

- **Proceed with caution.** Hazards, including hot spots, may exist in burned areas. Wear leather gloves, protective clothing and thick-soled shoes. Use local alerts, radios and other sources — such as apps from the [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#) or the [American Red Cross](#) — for timely information.
- **Photograph property damage.** Call your insurance agent or insurer’s claims hotline as soon as it is safe. Your policy might require that you make the notification within a certain time frame.
- **Avoid fraud.** Home repair fraud is common after disasters. Be wary of aggressive contractors or demands for up-front repair payment. If you have concerns, contact your state insurance department.



For tips to protect your home before a wildfire hits, visit [InsureOnline.org](https://www.insureonline.org).

1 - <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/07/23/wildfire-season-getting-longer/2581381/>
2 - <https://weather.com/news/news/where-large-fires-are-most-common>
3 - https://community.fema.gov/hazard/wildfire-en_us/be-smart?lang=en_US