

Ready, Set, Go!

for Community Wildfire Preparedness



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BECOMING A LEADER

A Fire-adapted community is a community of local residents, fire and emergency responders, business owners, builders, civic groups, and leaders who take steps to increase their safety and create a wildfire ready community. It's not a matter of if, but *when*, the next wildland fire will occur in wildland-urban interface (WUI) areas. For a community to be wildfire ready all groups must be actively engaged in the wildland fire solution. Part of this initiative comes with an increased understanding of wildland fire. Wildland fires don't only occur where there's forest vegetation, but also occur in rangelands, grasslands, prairielands, agricultural land, etc. A wildland fire may occur in your backyard and doesn't need to be newsworthy to put yourself, your family, your community, or firefighters at risk.

You are a key leader in creating change. You and the members of your community can take simple steps to increase your wildland fire preparedness. Your knowledge and actions may empower others to follow your lead, increasing their safety and potentially decreasing property loss and damage. Being prepared for a wildland fire event is vital, as responder resources can be spread thin. Taking advanced personal action can result in improved safety for all involved.

This brochure provides helpful tips you can complete yourself and offers information that can be used to encourage others. Reach out to other community leaders, agencies, and civic groups for even more information. See how they are preparing and share other actions or knowledge that would add to everyone's efforts.

Reach out: Contact your area emergency management agency to learn about notification systems, evacuation processes, and supporting organizations that are key players in the event of a wildland fire. Talk to firefighters at a station near you to broaden your knowledge-base about risk, preparedness, and their role in creating a wildfire ready community. Check with local businesses, civic groups, and neighborhood associations to see if they are involved and what actions they may be taking. If they are not taking action, express the importance of doing so, encourage them, and share what you've learned. Each of these groups is an asset and an essential part of the effort to reduce wildfire risk. Sharing the information will spark interest in others. Start the dialogue today.

Be a leader in your community!



To learn more about improving your personal safety through wildland fire preparedness and becoming a leader of the risk reduction efforts in your community, contact your local fire department or emergency management agency and visit www.iafc.org/wildland.

Ready, Set, Go!

Step 1:
Take action yourself
using RSG

Use the Ready, Set, Go! (RSG) Program information and tools to begin your personal wildland fire preparedness efforts.

Ready – Be ready.

Take personal responsibility and prepare long before the threat of a wildland fire so your property is ready to sustain the threat. Create defensible space by clearing brush away from structures. Use fire-resistant landscaping and harden structures using fire-safe construction measures. Assemble emergency supplies and belongings in a safe place. Plan escape routes and make sure all those staying on the property are aware of these plans.

Set – Be alert.

Put together a 'go kit'. Learn how to receive and stay aware of the latest news and information on the fire from local media, fire departments and public safety agencies. Prepare your personal wildland fire action plan.

Go! – Act early!

Follow your personal wildland fire action plan. Doing so will not only support your safety, but will allow firefighters to best maneuver resources during response.

Defensible Space – Increase your safety and reduce fire damage!

Defensible space is a buffer zone created by removing weeds, brush, and other natural vegetation between structures and the wildland-urban interface (WUI). Creating defensible space can decrease fire damage to structures and allow space for firefighting operations.

Landscaping plans that include non-combustible materials or fire-resistant plants and regular maintenance can contribute to the creation of defensible space.

Special consideration should be given to wind-driven embers which can travel up to a mile ahead of the flame front. Take care to regularly inspect or replace outside screens and ventilation points.



A hardened home not only includes surrounding quality defensible space, but fire-resistant construction materials. Consider implementing an 'upgrade plan' with materials to potentially decrease fire damage to your home. For more information on hardening your home visit, www.iafc.org/wildland and www.disastersafety.org.

My Personal Wildland Fire ACTION PLAN

Residential Safety Checklist

Ready (Before the fire occurs)

- Ensure the property's address is clearly marked and visible from the street.
- Create defensible space around all structures.
- Create and follow a maintenance plan to keep property mowed and clean of vegetation debris and loose, combustible materials.
- Create an information packet to add to your 'go kit,' which includes:
 - Emergency and non-emergency phone numbers
 - Phone numbers or websites to sign up for local notification systems
 - A list of local news and radio stations
 - Phone numbers for local maintenance contractors
 - Locations of electrical and natural gas shut off's
 - A map marking all neighborhood exits
- Become familiar with area roads, including all exit routes from your immediate area.
- Sign up with local agencies to receive emergency notifications.
- Reinforce the importance of preparing for and maintaining situational awareness of wildland fire threats with everyone in the home.
- Consider participating in fuel hazard mitigation programs in your area.

Set (As the fire approaches)

- Complete and practice your personal action plan.
- Assemble a 'go kit' and include items, such as:
 - Prescription medications
 - Emergency supplies
 - Your information packet
 - Chargers for electronic communication devices
- Stay alert and remain aware of the situation – monitor local radio or television stations for updates.
- Consider turning off electricity and natural gas/heating fuel at the shut-off point if fire threat is imminent.

Go! (Act early)

- Get your 'go kit' and leave well before the threat approaches, following an accessible exit route.
- Use your personal action plan for guidance.
- Cooperate with local authorities during evacuation & re-entry processes.

Ready, Set, Go!

www.wildlandfireRSG.org

My Personal Wildland Fire ACTION PLAN

Write up your Wildland Fire Action Plan and post it in a location where every household member can see it. Practice multiple exit routes.

During high-fire-danger days in your area, monitor your local media for information and be ready to implement your plan. Hot, dry, and windy conditions create the perfect environment for a wildland fire.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS (Emergency and Non-emergency)

Name

Phone Number

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

EXIT ROUTES

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

MEETING LOCATION

AREA SHELTERS

Name

Address

Phone Number

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

NOTES



For more information, contact your local fire department and visit www.iafc.org/wildland