



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Rural Fire Rampage

A home in the country is a dream come true for many families. A wildland fire can turn that dream into a nightmare.

If you live, work or enjoy recreation in a rural area you need to know how to prevent fire damage and how to survive a fire disaster.

All fires require a source of ignition. Don't supply this ignition by discarding a cigarette, burning rubbish outdoors in dry weather or operating sparking equipment such as a chain saw in dry woods or grasslands. Observe campfire restrictions.

All fires also require fuel. You can reduce fire hazards around your home or workplace by removing fuel — long grass, forest debris, shrubbery and stored materials. Surround the building with an area free of combustible plants.

Trim trees so they do not touch the house or wiring. Clean roofs and gutters regularly to remove debris which can catch fire. Use fire resistant materials on the roof and exterior of the home. Install a spark arrester on the chimney and keep the chimney clean to prevent fires. Stone walls and concrete surfaces can also help

keep a wildland fire away from a house.

In fire season regularly wet down the house roof and other structures.

Have an emergency plan in case of wildland fire. Familiarize yourself with your employer's fire safety plan. Develop a plan with your family too, including several evacuation routes and a place to meet if you become separated.

Be alert to broadcast warnings of wildland fires, particularly in the dry season, following a lightning storm or in windy weather.

If a fire threatens, remove combustible items such as lawn furniture and firewood from around the house. Take down combustible window coverings such as drapes and curtains.

Close doors and windows. Turn off gas valves and pilot lights.

Turn sprinklers on to roofs and other structures.

Be prepared to evacuate your family and pets if the fire comes near or if you are instructed to do so by emergency officials.



Stay away from your home until you are told by officials it is safe to return. Continue to check for hot spots, embers and sparks for hours after your return, promptly extinguishing them.

If you are trapped by a wildland fire, crouch down in a pond or stream. Cover your head with wet clothing. If you cannot reach water, go to a cleared or rocky area. Lie down and cover your body with wet clothing or dirt. Breathe the air close to the ground through a wet cloth.

Fire is a natural occurrence in wildlands, part of a natural cycle of growth and regeneration. If you live or spend time in forests or grasslands, you have to be prepared to deal with wildfire.

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