

5 Steps to Ready

The effects of climate change are here, and so are the health challenges caused by extreme weather. These health challenges call for a change in the way we respond. Use this document to prepare for wildfires now, when there is time.

1. Make a plan

- You may need to evacuate with very little advance notice. It is important that you have a plan on how to leave quickly, which should account for all family members, pets, and livestock.
- Identify multiple meet-up locations and indicate in which order you will attempt to meet at each location. Fire areas and evacuation routes may shift.
- Identify people you will need to contact and keep this list in your wallet, on your phone, and somewhere visible in your house.
- Plan to support family members and neighbors who would have difficulty evacuating quickly. Wildfires can move quickly and unexpectedly.
- Plan for outages: Learn how to manually open your automatic garage doors or gates. If you have a generator, be sure you know the safety guidelines of your model. And have a backup plan to maintain any life support equipment.

2. Build a kit

- In a container that can be quickly loaded into a car, store enough food and water for at least three days. Be sure to include the needs of pets and those with special diets.
- Include a first aid kit, work gloves, flashlight, sanitation supplies and well fitting N95 masks (for children, small-size N95s may work, if not consider KF94 masks for children).
- Make copies of important documents (health insurance, identification information such as passport, birth certificate, and social security card, and financial information such as insurance policies, bank account records, and a copy of your real estate deed).

3. Keep at least seven days of medication on hand

- Work with your pharmacist and insurance company to secure the extra doses.
- If you have cardiovascular or respiratory disease, talk with your health care provider about when to leave the area and how much medicine to have on hand. If you have asthma, talk to your provider about an asthma action plan.

4. Protect your home against wildfire damage and smoke.

- Maintain homeowners/renter's insurance and make a home inventory video of your belongings.
- If you own property, create and maintain defensible space around your home (the buffer between the structure and plants, brush and trees that could catch fire). [\[link\]](#)
- Consider purchasing a HEPA-rated air purifier. Avoid any that use ozone. An alternative is to build your own DIY box fan filter [\[link\]](#)

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5. Stay informed

- Sign up for your county, city, or local emergency alert systems. An early warning can give you the minutes you need to prepare for a fast-moving fire.
- Listen and watch for air quality reports and health warnings about smoke.
- Monitor those at higher risk for health complications due to wildfire smoke.
- If there is a fire nearby, frequently monitor movement and evacuation orders and prepared to leave quickly. If possible, leave the high-risk area prior to the evacuation to reduce traffic.
- Download the FEMA app for emergency alerts and the NOAA Weather Radio app for continuous national weather information. And learn more at [ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov).