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](https://www.fema.gov) or the [American Red Cross](https://www.redcross.org) — 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 [InsureUonline.org](http://InsureUonline.org).

