

Arizona's hot, dry climate is perfect for

WILDFIRES

Wildfires often begin unnoticed. These fires are usually triggered by lightning or accidents. They spread quickly, igniting brush, trees, and homes.

Watches & Warnings

Watches = Be Aware.

Warnings = Take Action!

Fire Weather Watch

Issued when the combination of dry fuels and weather conditions supporting extreme fire danger and/or fire behavior is expected within 12 to 72 hours.

Red Flag Warning

Issued when the combination of dry fuels and weather conditions supporting extreme fire danger and/or fire behavior is imminent or occurring.

Information Zone

Follow these agencies on social media:

- Maricopa County Department of Emergency Management
- Arizona Emergency Information Network
- Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management
- National Weather Service Phoenix



Maricopa County

Emergency Management

5630 E. McDowell Road
Phoenix, AZ 85008
602-273-1411
ready.maricopa.gov

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2017

ARE YOU READY?
WILDFIRES



Preparedness
Starts with You!



Maricopa County
Emergency Management

Be Informed. Be Ready. Take Action.

Before & During Any Disaster or Large-Scale Emergency

- Monitor your television, portable radio, or cell phone for information and instructions.
- If you have been told to EVACUATE or SHELTER in your home, DO SO IMMEDIATELY. Secure your home. Remember your pets. Check on neighbors who may need special assistance. Follow all evacuation or shelter orders given by local authorities.
- Return home only when authorities say it's safe.

Before

Know Your Risk & Be Informed

- Wildfires are more common during late spring and summer. Vegetation dries rapidly as temperatures rise, increasing the risk of wildfires.
- Check current fire danger and fire restrictions before heading into national, tribal, state and local lands.
- People start most wildfires. Practice wildfire safety.

Prepare Yourself & Your Family

- Develop and practice a **Disaster Plan** with your family to prepare for what to do, where to go, and how to communicate during any disaster.
- Prepare to evacuate by creating a **Go Bag** for each individual and pet. Consider including one in your vehicle and one at work.
- Prepare to stay in your home for up to 3 days (without electricity or running water) by creating an **Emergency Kit**.
- Visit ready.maricopa.gov and ein.az.gov to learn more about how to prepare for disasters.

Prepare Your Home

- Visit www.firewise.org to learn how to create defensible space around your home.
- Design and landscape your home with wildfire safety in mind. Select materials and plants that can help contain fire rather than fuel it.
- Trim tree branches away from your home. Ask the power company to clear branches from power lines.
- Keep wood piles away from your home.
- Keep handy household items that can be used as fire tools: a rake, axe, handsaw or chain saw, bucket, shovel, and hose.
- Make sure your home address is visible from the roadway.

REPORT

If you see a wildfire and haven't received evacuation orders yet, call 9-1-1. Don't assume that someone else has already called.

During

Take Action Indoors

- If you have not yet been told to evacuate, and have time, prepare your home by reducing drafts/radiant heat. Shut off gas/propane. Place a ladder against the house in clear view. Disconnect automatic garage door openers.

Take Action Outdoors

- If you see smoke in your area, be aware of your surroundings and know several evacuation routes.

Take Action in a Vehicle

- Don't drive towards the fire. Avoid the area so you don't impede emergency vehicle access.

After

Stay Safe, Healthy & Alert

- Drive with caution. Anticipate traffic light outages and obstacles in the road. Report broken utility lines and damaged roadways and railways to appropriate authorities as soon as possible.
- Use extreme caution when entering buildings; there may be hidden damage.
- Use caution around trees and other overhead obstructions. Stay away from burned areas.
- If your home or property is damaged, take photos/videos of damage, list all damaged items, and contact your insurance agent to discuss claims.