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

Arizona’s hot, dry climate is perfect for wildfires.

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WILDFIRES ARE YOU READY?

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.

Warnings = Take Action!

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.

Watches & Warnings
Watches = Be Aware.

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

Information Zone

Preparedness Starts with You!
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.

**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.

**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.

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**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 [www.firewise.org](http://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.

**Prepare Your Home**

**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.

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