

Wildfire Readiness Tips from ReadyNC.gov

Wildfire Resources: www.readync.gov/wildfire
Mobile App: www.readync.gov



More and more people are making their homes in or near forests, rural areas or out-of-the-way mountain sites. There, homeowners enjoy the beauty of the environment but face the very real danger of a wildfire.

Every year across the United States, some homes survive and others do not after a major wildfire. Those that make it almost always do so because their owners had gotten ready for the possibility of fire. Fires cannot be escaped in wildland areas that are likely to have them. Said in another way - if it's predictable, it's preventable!

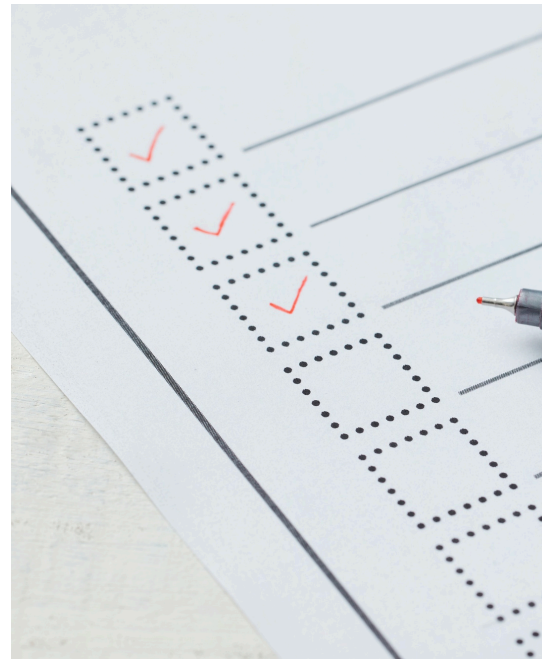
Wildfires often begin without being seen. These fires are usually triggered by lightning or accidents. They spread quickly, igniting brush, trees and homes. Lower your risk by getting ready now before wildfire strikes. Meet with your family to decide what to do and where to go if wildfires threaten your area. Follow the steps below to protect family, home and property.

Before a Wildfire

To get ready, you should:

- Build an emergency kit.
- Make a family communications plan.
- Select landscaping items and plants that can help contain fire rather than fuel it.
- Plan your water needs.
- Prepare your home.
- Find details and additional preparation tasks:

readync.gov/wildfire#Tab-Before-163



During a Wildfire

If told to leave, do so instantly. Take your disaster supply kit, lock your home and choose a route away from the fire hazard. Watch for changes in the speed and direction of the fire and smoke. Tell someone when you left and where you are going.

If you see a wildfire and haven't gotten evacuation orders yet, call 9-1-1. Don't assume that someone else has already called. Describe the location of the fire. Speak slowly and clearly, and answer any questions asked by the dispatcher.

During a Wildfire (continued)

If you are not ordered to leave and have time to prepare your home, FEMA says you should:

- Arrange temporary housing at a friend or relative's home outside the threatened area in case you need to leave.
- Wear protective clothing when outside – sturdy shoes, cotton or woolen clothes, long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, gloves and a handkerchief to protect your face.
- Gather fire tools such as a rake, axe, handsaw or chainsaw, bucket and shovel.
- Close outside attic, eaves and basement vents, windows, doors, pet doors, etc. Remove flammable drapes and curtains. Close all shutters, blinds or heavy non-flammable window coverings to lower radiant heat.
- Find a comprehensive list of suggestions for how to respond during a wildfire: readync.gov/wildfire#Tab-During-164

After a Wildfire

The tips below can help you if you find yourself in different situations after a fire.

- Go to a designated public shelter if you have been told to leave or you feel it is unsafe to remain in your home. Text **SHELTER** + your ZIP code to **43362** (4FEMA) to find the nearest shelter in your area (example: shelter 12345).
- If you are with burn victims or are a burn victim yourself, call 9-1-1 or seek help immediately. Cool and cover burns to lower the chance of further injury or infection.
- If you remained at home, check the roof immediately after the fire danger has passed. Put out any roof fires, sparks or embers. Check the attic for hidden burning sparks.
- For many hours after the fire, keep a "fire watch." Re-check for smoke and sparks throughout the house.
- If you have left your home, do not enter your home until fire officials say it is safe.
- Find a comprehensive list of suggestions for how to respond after a wildfire by visiting: readync.gov/wildfire#Tab-After-165



Visit the **GROW NC** website for additional recovery resources

wncrecovery.nc.gov/resources/recovery-resources

Governor's Recovery Office for Western North Carolina

Email: wncrecovery@nc.gov Subscribe: bit.ly/GROW_NC_news