

Be prepared for a wildfire

If you live in an area that is prone to wildfires

- Be extremely careful with personal fires.
- Install and test smoke detectors on every floor of your home.
- Create a 30-foot “safety zone” around your home, which is as free of vegetation as possible.
- Create an additional 100-foot buffer zone with reduced vegetation.
- Remove any flammable materials within 30 feet of all buildings.
- Consider using fire resistant siding, roofing and building materials wherever possible.
- Create outdoor water storage using a pond, pool or well.

Recommendations for everyone

- Have a several-day supply of nonperishable groceries that do not require cooking; cooking (especially frying and broiling) can add to indoor pollutant levels.
- If you develop symptoms suggesting lung or heart problems, consult a health care provider as soon as possible.
- Be alert to public service announcements about wildfires.
- Be aware that outdoor events, such as athletic games or competitions, may be postponed or cancelled if smoke levels become elevated.

Recommendations for people with chronic diseases

- Have an adequate supply of medication (more than five days).
- If you have asthma, make sure you have a written asthma management plan.

For more information:

Technical advice and information:

**Oregon Public Health Division
Emergency Preparedness Program**

Phone: 971-673-1244

Fax: 971-673-1309

<http://public.health.oregon.gov/preparedness>

**U.S. Environmental Protection
Agency (EPA)**

www.epa.gov/californiafires/

**Federal Emergency Management
Agency (FEMA)**

www.fema.gov/hazard/wildfire

**Centers for Disease Control and
Prevention (CDC)**

www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/wildfires

and (for youth and asthma)

www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/asthma/wildfires.htm

**Oregon Department of
Environmental Quality (DEQ)
Air Quality Index**

www.deq.state.or.us/aqi/

Oregon
Health
Authority

OREGON PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION
Emergency Preparedness Program

- If you have heart disease, check with your health care providers about precautions to take during smoke events. Do this before the fire season if you live in an area where wildfires are possible.
- If you plan to use a portable air cleaner, buy one that matches the room size specified by the manufacturer. Do this before a smoke emergency.
- Contact a health care provider if your condition worsens when you are exposed to smoke.

When a wildfire threatens your property

- **Evacuate.** Evacuate your pets and all family members who are not essential to preparing the home. The young and elderly as well as anyone with medical or physical limitations should be evacuated immediately.
- **Remove combustibles.** Clear items that will burn — e.g., wood piles, lawn furniture, barbecue grills and tarp coverings — from around the house. Move these items outside of the space you can protect.
- **Close or protect openings.** Close outside attic, eaves and basement vents, windows, doors, pet doors, etc. Remove flammable drapes and curtains. Close all shutters, blinds or heavy non-combustible window coverings to reduce radiant heat.
- **Close inside doors and open fireplace damper.** Close all doors inside the house to prevent draft. Open the damper on your fireplace, but close the fireplace screen.
- **Shut off gas.** Shut off any natural gas, propane or fuel oil supplies at the source.
- **Water.** Connect garden hoses. Fill any pools, hot tubs, garbage cans, tubs or other large containers with water for possible use during a fire.
- **Pumps.** If you have gas-powered pumps for water, make sure they are fueled and ready.
- **Ladder.** Place a ladder against the house in clear view.
- **Car.** Back your car into the driveway and roll up the windows.
- **Garage doors.** Disconnect any automatic garage door openers so that doors can still be opened by hand if the power goes out. Close all garage doors.
- **Valuables.** Place valuable papers, mementos and anything you can't live without inside the car in the garage, ready for quick departure. Any pets still with you should also be put in the car.

When it's time to leave

- **Lights.** Turn on outside lights and leave a light on in every room to make the house more visible in heavy smoke.
- **Don't lock up.** Leave doors and windows closed but unlocked. It may be necessary for firefighters to gain quick entry into your home to fight a fire. The entire area will be isolated and patrolled by sheriff's deputies or police.