Ready, Set, Go!

GET SET: Red Flag Warning

Powered by the IAFC

The Ready, Set, Go! Program seeks to share information with residents on how they can successfully become prepared in the event of a wildland fire. Speak with a local fire department personnel about your area's threat for wildland fire and learn more about the wildland urban interface (WUI), an area which is not only limited to forest vegetation. Wildland fire is an increasing threat and a year-round reality in many areas. As a resident , it's important to educate yourself and do your part to prepare. The RSG! Program gives you simple, easy to follow tips to increase the safety of you and your family.

Ready – Be ready.

Take personal responsibility to prepare long before the threat of a wildland fire so your property is ready to sustain the threat. Create defensible space by clearing brush away from structures. Use fire-resistant landscaping and harden structures using fire -safe construction. Assemble emergency supplies and belongings in a safe place. Plan escape routes and make sure all those staying on the property are aware of the plan of action.

Set – Be alert.

Put together a "Go" kit. Learn how to receive and stay aware of the latest news and information on the fire from local media, fire departments and public safety agencies. Prepare your personal wildland fire action plan.

Go! – Act early!

Follow your personal wildland fire action plan. Doing so will not only support your safety, but will allow firefighters to best maneuver resources during a fire.

To improve the safety of you and your family, please use this guide to help educate yourself on ways to be fire-adapted and implement wildland fire safety tips today.

For more information visit, www.wildlandfirersg.org.

What is a Red Flag Warning?

A Red Flag Warning is issued by the National Weather Service when low humidity, warm temperatures, dry fuels and strong winds could combine to produce extreme fire behavior that is either occurring or will occur within 24 hours. These are some of the criteria* considered prior to issuing a Red Flag Warning:

- Sustained wind speeds averaging 15 mph or greater
- Relative humidity of 25% or less
- Temperature over 75 degrees F
- Ten hour fuel moisture at 8% or less for one day

**specific weather criteria can vary by region*

During a Red Flag Warning you should **ALWAYS** follow the instructions provided by your local fire department and be prepared to take action if a fire develops in your area.

A fire adapted community is a community located in a WUI that requires little assistance from firefighters during a wildland fire. Residents accept the responsibility for living in a high fire-hazard area. They possess the knowledge and skills to prepare their homes and property to survive wildland fire and evacuate early, safely, and efficiently.

Red Flag Warning Safety Tips

Equipment

- Avoid using lawn mowers on dry vegetation.
- Follow all local fire restrictions on the use of chainsaws, mowers and other equipment during high risk times.

Outdoor Fires

- Be mindful of any burn bans in your area and obtain a permit if needed.
- Extinguish outdoor fires properly, never leave them unattended. Always drown them with plenty of water.
- Soak ashes and charcoal in water and dispose of them in a metal can. These materials can reignite days after a fire or BBQ is extinguished.
- Report unattended outdoor fires immediately to 911.

Property

- Keep your lawn green and mowed all season.
- Create at least 100 feet of defensible space around your home by removing leaves, weeds, brush, firewood and other flammables such as lawn mowers, gas cans and patio furniture.
- Clean roof and gutters of leaves, pine needles, or other flammables. Box in vents with 1/8th inch mesh to block embers.
- Make sure access roads to your property are cleared and properly labeled.

Vehicles

- Do not throw cigarettes or matches out of a vehicle. They can ignite grass on the side of the road and start a wildfire.
- Do not pull your vehicle over in dry grass.
- Ensure that trailer chains don't drag on the ground.

Always Maintain Situational Awareness

Follow weather reports and make sure you are signed up for state and local emergency alerts.

During a Red Flag Warning, your local fire department can do the following:

- Send text alerts, post information on social media and notify media local outlets.
- Suspend open burning.
- Increase staffing.
- Change fire threat signs to extreme.
- Place a red flag outside their department.
- Staff reserve equipment.
- Patrol highly vulnerable areas.
- Discuss allied resources with law enforcement, local government officials and neighboring fire departments.

For more information on Red Flag Warnings, **contact your local fire department.**

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Ready, Set, Go! Wildland Fire Action Plan

Ready (Before the warning occurs)

- Create at least 100 feet of defensible space around your home. Clear flammable vegetation by trimming trees and removing pine needles and leaves from roofs, eaves and gutters. Box in vents with 1/8th inch metal mesh to block embers.
- Complete and practice your Personal Wildland Fire Action Plan.
- Become familiar with area roads, including all exit routes from your immediate area.
- Make a plan to accommodate animals or pets in case of wildfire or evacuation.
- Sign up with local agencies to receive emergency notifications.

Set (During the warning)

- Maintain good situational awareness by following weather reports and the news from your local media outlets.
- Have your "Go" kit packed and near your door in case you need to evacuate quickly. Suggested items to pack include:
  - Your Personal Wildland Fire Action Plan.
  - Prescription medications and any medical devices you may need.
  - Emergency first-aid supplies.
  - Important documents including your passport, birth certificate, driver's license, marriage license, insurance policy and any other legal documents.
  - Pet medications.
  - Personal electronics including cell phone, laptops and any charging cables you may need.
  - A week's worth of clothing and two pairs of shoes.
- Make sure your car is fueled and parked right outside your house so you can leave quickly.

Go! (Act early when a wildfire threatens)

- Get your '"Go" kit and leave well before the threat approaches, following an accessible exit route.
- Use your personal action plan for guidance.
- Cooperate with local authorities during evacuation & re-entry processes.

Remember: An evacuation can occur anytime, day or night. Be prepared with your Action Plan and Go Kit so you can evacuate quickly and safely.

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My Personal Wildland Fire Action Plan

Write up your Wildland Fire Action Plan and post it in a location where every household member can see it. Practice multiple exit routes. During high-fire-danger days in your area, monitor your local media for information and be ready to implement your plan. Hot, dry, and windy conditions create the perfect environment for a wildland fire.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS (Emergency and Non-emergency)

Name	Phone Number

PROPERTY OWNER

_____

LIST LOCAL NEWS AND RADIO STATIONS

_____

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CONTACTS

_____

LOCATION OF ELECTRICAL AND NATURAL GAS SHUT OFFS

_____

DIRECTIONS NOTING ALL NEIGHBORHOOD EXITS

_____

_____

_____

EXIT ROUTES

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

MEETING LOCATION

_____

AREA SHELTERS/SAFETY ZONES

Name	Address	Phone Number

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