

Preparing for a Wildfire

Wildfires are on our minds right now due to the fires that ravaged so much of Los Angeles County. Therefore, we have decided to focus on wildfire preparedness and safety tips this month. While house fires are often caused by faulty wiring, human error or lightning, wildfires are unplanned fires in forests, grasslands, or prairies. They can disrupt transportation, power, communication, and gas systems and are typically sparked by humans or lightning. Wildfire risk increases during dry periods and high winds and can occur anywhere, anytime.

To Prepare for Potential Wildfires

1. **Sign up for your community's warning system**
2. **Know your evacuation route** (have a map available in case GPS is not working)
3. **Know the locations of shelters** (including shelters for your needs: pets, children, disabilities)
4. **Create a Fire Safe** (to include all important documents including copies of password-protected files, contact info, etc.)
5. **Have emergency supplies and "BUG-OUT" bag prepared** (and easily accessible for quick evacuation if necessary, including medications)
6. **Review Insurance** coverage
7. **Have a family plan** for reunification/communication
8. **Document the contents of your home**

Steps to take if you are under a wildfire warning: GET TO SAFETY

1. **Leave** if you are told to (the professionals know more than you do!)
2. **Listen** for emergency information and alerts
3. **Trapped** call 9-1-1
4. **Use a N95 Mask** if available, if not use whatever mask you have to prevent inhaling particles and smoke

ALWAYS listen to Authorities – they have the best situational data