

# How to be Prepared for a **Wildfire**



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**Wildfires are unplanned fires that burn in natural areas like forests, grasslands, or prairies. These dangerous fires spread quickly and can devastate not only wildlife and natural areas, but also communities.**

## Strengthen your home

### Tip 1

- Use fire-resistant materials to build, renovate or make repairs.
- Find an outdoor water source with a hose that can reach any area of your property.
- Create a fire-resistant zone that is free of leaves, debris, or flammable materials for at least 30 feet from your home.
  - Make sure to keep this fire-resistant zone well maintained and watering during a hot, dry summer.
  - Stack wood piles on bare or gravel areas or in an enclosed shed at least 30 feet from the home.
- Designate a room that can be closed off from outside air. Close all doors and windows. Setup a portable air cleaner to keep indoor air pollution levels low when smokey conditions exist.

## Make an emergency plan

### Tip 2

- Make sure everyone in your household knows and understands what to do if you need to evacuate quickly.
  - Don't forget a plan for the office, kids' daycare, and anywhere else you go frequently.
- Know your evacuation zone
  - In the event you have to evacuate quickly, learn your evacuation routes and practice with your household, pets, and identify where you will go.
- Make sure you are following instructions from local authorities. They will provide the latest recommendations based on the threat to your community and appropriate safety measures.

## Gather supplies

### Tip 3

- Have enough supplies for your household, including a first aid kit, in your emergency kit or in your car.
- Be cautious when carrying flammable or combustible household products that can cause fires or explosions if handled wrong. For example: aerosols, cooking oils, rubbing alcohol and hand sanitizer.
- If available, store an N95 mask to protect yourself from smoke inhalation.
- Keep all cell phones charged when wildfires could be in your area. Purchase backup charging devices to power electronics.

## Recognize Warnings and Alerts

- Have several ways to receive alerts.
  - Download the FEMA app and receive real-time alerts from the National Weather Service for up to five locations nationwide.
  - Sign up for community alerts in your area and be aware of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Wireless Alert System (WEA), which requires no-sign up.
  - Sign up for Code Red alerts through the Nebraska North Central Emergency Management Region to be notified by your local emergency response team in the event of emergency situations or critical community alerts.
    - <https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/en-US/A18390C1910C>
- Pay attention to air quality alerts

## Stay Safe During a Wildfire

- Evacuate immediately if authorities tell you to do so!
- If trapped, call 9-1-1 and give your location. Turn on lights to help rescuers find you.
- Use an N95 mask to protect yourself from smoke inhalation or limit your exposure to smoke.



**Loup Basin**  
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT