

The Rising Threat of Wildfires in Dry Conditions—and How to Prepare

Why Dry Conditions Increase Wildfire Risk

Prolonged drought and unusually dry weather create the perfect environment for wildfires. When precipitation levels drop and temperatures rise, vegetation becomes brittle and highly flammable. This means even a small spark—from a cigarette, a vehicle exhaust, or lightning—can ignite a blaze that spreads rapidly. According to experts, factors such as low humidity, strong winds, and accumulated dry vegetation amplify the danger, making wildfires more frequent and severe.

Warmer temperatures and shifting rainfall patterns extend fire seasons and increase the intensity of droughts. In recent years, wildfires have consumed millions of acres across the U.S., destroying homes, businesses, and ecosystems.

Immediate Risks to Communities

Wildfires pose multiple hazards:

- **Property Damage:** Homes and infrastructure can be destroyed within hours.
- **Health Risks:** Smoke and ash irritate lungs and eyes, especially for children, pregnant individuals, and those with chronic conditions.
- **Environmental Impact:** Fires degrade air quality and contribute to climate change through carbon emissions.

How to Prepare for Wildfires

Preparation is your best defense. Here are key steps recommended by emergency agencies:

1. Create a Defensible Space

Clear flammable vegetation at least 30 feet from

WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST

-  Create Defensible Space
-  Build Emergency Kit
-  Plan Evacuation Routes
-  Harden Your Home
-  Stay Informed

your home. Trim trees, remove dead plants, and keep lawns hydrated. Use fire-resistant materials for roofs and siding, and clean gutters regularly to prevent ember ignition.

2. Build an Emergency Kit

Include:

- Water and non-perishable food for at least 72

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From your Disaster Preparedness Chair:

I want to thank the posts that have responded to our Disaster Recovery Resource Survey. The following Posts have responded: Post 4, Post 15, Post 72, and Post 118. If you haven't completed the survey yet, you can do so at:

<https://forms.gle/L8PCAbWauhom5nEDA>

I'd like to share some of the information we

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hours

- First-aid supplies and medications
- Flashlights, batteries, and a phone charger
- Important documents and cash
- Items for pets (food, carriers, vaccination records).

3. Plan Evacuation Routes

Know multiple ways out of your neighborhood. Practice evacuation drills with your family and pets. Sign up for local emergency alerts and download apps like FEMA or Red Cross for real-time updates.

4. Harden Your Home

Install spark arresters on chimneys, use tempered glass for windows, and seal gaps where embers could enter. Consider creating a “safe room” with an air purifier to reduce smoke exposure during active fires.

5. Stay Informed

Monitor weather conditions, fire danger ratings, and drought updates. Avoid activities that could spark fires—such as burning debris or parking on dry grass—during high-risk periods.

Community and Policy Actions

Beyond individual efforts, communities should:

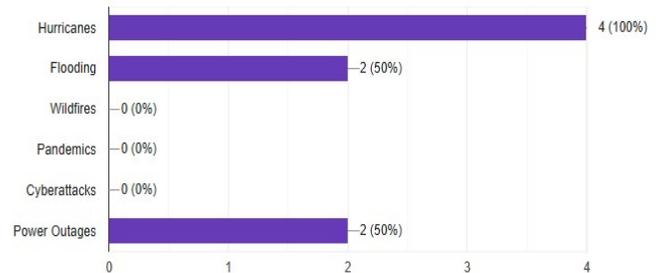
- Host preparedness events with local fire departments
- Promote fire-resistant landscaping
- Advocate for stronger wildfire management policies and climate action.

Bottom Line: Wildfires are no longer confined to remote forests—they threaten neighborhoods, businesses, and lives. By taking proactive steps now, you can reduce your risk and protect what matters most.

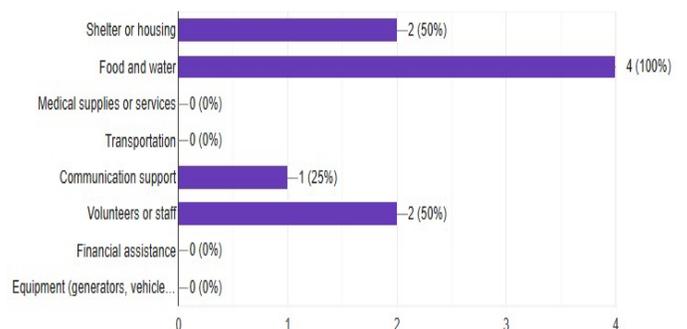
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have received so far. Based on responses, this months topic may be of special interest during this dry season.

Here are types of disasters are you prepared to respond to :



Here resources can your organization provide during a disaster:



Let’s keep the information coming so we can better support our District and communities.