



SATURDAY MAY 7, 2022

# WILDFIRE COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS DAY

Wildfires across the United States have cost more than 100 lives and more than \$40 billion in property losses in just the last three years.

That's why it's so important to take steps to improve the wildfire safety of your home and community.

**PUT SAFETY FIRST.  
ON THE FIRST SATURDAY IN MAY.**

Take the first step by participating in Wildfire Community Preparedness Day.

There are simple things you can do in an afternoon or over a weekend that research shows will help your home survive a wildfire.



**TILLAMOOK COUNTY**

OREGON

Learn more at [nfpa.org/wildfireprepdlay](https://nfpa.org/wildfireprepdlay)

# PREPARE AND PROTECT WITH YOUR PROJECT

Pick projects that will fit your community and make a real difference in its future safety. Inspect your surroundings, keep things tidy, and share info with others.

Check | Clear | Communicate

Projects that reduce wildfire risk and increase preparedness can be accomplished by people of all ages with a variety of time commitments. You might be asking, "What can I do in a single day to help stay safer from wildfire?" The answer is - a lot!

## Check

- Can you see your home's address number from the street? How about your neighbors'? If not, trim overgrown vegetation covering or blocking the numbers on your homes in case firefighters need to find you.
- Locate two alternate routes out of your neighborhood (besides the one normally used) and plan & practice a family evacuation drill using those alternate routes.
- Measure how close wood piles are located to the home, if any are closer than 30 feet, move them farther away from structures.
- Screen or box-in areas below patios and decks with wire screening no larger than 1/8-inch mesh to help keep embers out during a wildfire.
- Check your possessions. Get tips from the Insurance Information Institute on how to document your belongings here: [How to create a home inventory](#).
- Check in on others! Help elderly relatives or neighbors enter emergency numbers into their phones. Using large type, post their phone number and street address above their landline phone so it can easily be seen when providing information to an emergency dispatcher.

[Learn more at nfpa.org/wildfireprepdays](https://nfpa.org/wildfireprepdays)



## Clear

- Rake and remove pine needles and dry leaves to a minimum of 3 to 5 feet from a home's foundation. Over time, continue up to a 30-foot distance around the home. Dispose of collected debris in appropriate trash receptacles.
- Sweep porches and decks, clearing them of leaves and pine needles. Rake under decks, porches, sheds, and play structures.
- On mature trees, use hand pruners and loppers to remove low-hanging tree branches up to a height of 4 feet from the ground (specific height depends on the type and size of tree). Collect downed tree limbs and broken branches and take them to a disposal site.
- Remove items stored under decks and porches and relocate them to a storage area. Gasoline cans and portable propane tanks should never be stored indoors or near the home.
- Join forces with neighbors and pool your resources to pay for a chipper service to help clear debris.
- Clear out your closets! Hold a garage sale and donate the proceeds to your local fire department's wildland fire team.

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## Communicate

- Create a family communication plan and build or update a 72-hour evacuation kit for you, your family, and your pets.
- Contact the local Office of Emergency Management and register your mobile number to receive emergency notifications on your own device. Register your cell number, as well as family members here: [Tillamook County Emergency Alerts](#)
- Inform caregivers and guests in your home of your family's emergency plan for wildfires and evacuations.
- Work with neighbors to develop a phone tree that can be used to alert everyone about a fire or evacuation.

## MAJOR FIRE EVENTS SEPTEMBER 2020

### **Oregon:**

4,009 homes destroyed in eight counties

9 people died

More than 1 million acres destroyed

### **Glass Fire, Napa and Sonoma Counties:**

67,484 acres and 1,555 structures destroyed

**58,950 wildfires &  
10,122,336 acres  
burned**

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BE PREPARED.

BE SAFE.

Most projects are best with two or more people - it's more efficient and safer that way!

## Safety Tips

- **Bending:** Keep your feet shoulder width apart and move your whole body as one unit: bend at your hips and knees, not at your waist.
- **Lifting:** Plan to have someone help you with heavy lifting. Use slow, smooth movements while lifting, and keep your body facing the object. Keep the load close to your body between your shoulders and waist - this puts less strain on back muscles.
- **Stacking:** For firewood, refer to this article from [Popular Mechanics](#)
- **Moving:** Use caution when moving and storing any type of hazardous items. Many products can be dangerous if handled or stored incorrectly - and can harm your health and the environment.
- **Protecting:** With hand tools always wear eye protection. Handle sharp-edged and pointed tools carefully with the points and heavy ends downward and outward.
- **Inspecting:** Tools should be inspected to ensure that they are in good condition before use. Do not use broken or unsafe equipment.
- **Trashing:** If you are removing trash, be aware of nails, broken glass, and sharp metals. Always ensure that adult works with minors.
- **Safety gear:** Always use good safety practices. Wear proper clothing and protective equipment, especially when operating power tools. **Gloves, Goggles, Ear Protection and Hard Hat**

## BE ALERT!

Your work may disturb critters, or take place in slippery terrain!



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