



Wildfires

Wildfires can start unexpectedly and spread quickly, often due to lightning strikes or accidents. You may not be aware of a wildfire until you are in danger, so it is important to be prepared for a wildfire, especially if you live in a dry, wooded area. Wildfires can be incredibly destructive and dangerous. They pose a threat not only to your home and community, but also to your family if you are not prepared.

How to Prepare

- 1 **Stay informed.** ALL Marines (active duty and Reserve), civil service, and contractor personnel with a NIPR computer account—verify and update official contact information populated in the **Marine Corps Enterprise Mass Notification System (eMNS)** by information found in the Global Address List (GAL), and self-register all cell phones, home phone, email addresses, etc. in eMNS. Registration of personal information enhances Marine Corps Installations' ability to rapidly provide emergency information and changes to the base's operating status during non-working hours and wherever you are.
- 2 Be aware of your area's risk for wildfires.
- 3 Make an **evacuation plan** as a family.
- 4 Make an **emergency communication plan** in case family members are separated.
- 5 Practice fire safety by:
 - Installing smoke detectors on every level of your home.
 - Never leaving a fire (including a cigarette) unattended.
 - Avoiding open burning.
 - Keeping a ladder that will reach the roof.
- 6 Create a 30-50 foot safety zone around your home by:
 - Clearing the area of all flammable vegetation, including dry leaves and branches.
 - Removing vines from the side of your home.
 - Regularly disposing of trash at approved sites.
 - Storing gasoline and oily rags in proper safety cans.
 - Regularly cleaning roof and gutters of debris.
 - Inspecting chimneys at least twice a year.
- 7 Build an **emergency kit**.
- 8 Make sure you have a fire extinguisher as well as a hose that can reach all areas of the home.

What to Do When There Is a Wildfire

- Stay tuned to radio, TV, and eMNS for information and instructions.
- If you spot a wildfire, call 9-1-1 immediately. Don't assume that someone has already reported it.
- If directed to evacuate, do so immediately:
 - » Turn off gas.
 - » Fill any large containers with water, including pools, garbage cans, and tubs.
 - » Close all the doors in your house to prevent a draft.
 - » If time permits, clear the house and the area around it of any flammable items, including firewood and cloth curtains.
 - » Take your emergency kit.
 - » Wear protective clothing.
- Once you are in a safe place, follow your command's protocols for personnel accountability and contact your command's designated Point of Contact to check-in and report your location and situation.

Set your own course through any hazard: stay informed, make a plan, build a kit. Live Ready Marine Corps.



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What to Do After a Wildfire

- Avoid damaged or fallen power lines, poles, and downed wires.
- Wear leather gloves and heavy soled shoes to protect hands and feet.
- Check the roof and attic for smoldering embers or fires.
- Put out any fires with the water stored in containers.
- Wet debris down to minimize breathing dust particles.
- Do NOT use water that you think may be contaminated.
- Maintain a fire watch for several hours, periodically checking for fires or smoke throughout and around the house.
- If you evacuated, do not return home until Fire Marshals say it is safe to do so.

Where to Find Additional Information

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)—www.bt.cdc.gov/firesafety
- Department of Homeland Security (Ready.gov)—www.ready.gov/wildfires

