



Prevent Think Life Safety

For additional information, call 503-805-8482

Wildfire Survival

Wildfire can be a danger in the forest, in rural, or in urban settings. Fortunately, the dangers are usually seasonal. During those seasons, take extra care to ensure you don't cause a wildfire and that you are prepared to survive a wildfire.

Consider the following:

- Firefighters cannot protect a home without your help.
- Create a defensible space – Your home needs a separation from things that can burn. Keep tree branches off of your house and keep shrubs and plants a distance away. 30 to 100 feet may be appropriate, depending on the steepness of the terrain and the type of vegetation.
- Keep grasses cut and watered – Fire can travel quickly through grasses so keep them under control to maximize your safety.
- Wood piles, spare building materials, and other things that can burn must be away from your house. These things are fuel to a wildfire and must be kept clear to keep fire from gaining a foothold.
- Roofing materials make all the difference – If you are in a forested area, consider non-combustible roofing (metal, tile, or composition shingles). Wooden roofs are very hard to defend against fire. All roofs need to be kept clean of branches, leaves, and other things that can burn. Even material in gutters may be all fire needs to get started.
- Keep your address visible – Many of the most vulnerable homes are in areas with long driveways, shielded by trees and plants from the street. Help firefighters find your home in any emergency by posting your address clearly at the street. Seconds count in a wildfire or medical emergency.
- Have an emergency checklist for evacuation – If you have to leave, do so quickly. Have things in order when the season begins so no time is wasted. If you do have to leave, close doors, windows, and curtains.
- Have an Evacuation Kit ready. Include your essentials such as medications, important documents, and basic needs.
- Heed the warnings from fire officials. Help them do their job by following directions carefully.
- Contact your local fire officials for more safety suggestions specific to your area.