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4 Steps for Protecting Your Family from a Wildfire

Did you know that more than 300,000 wildfires occur every year worldwide? Sometimes wildfires can be contained before they cause serious damage, but sometimes they grow large enough to destroy homes—and even lives. But it doesn't have to be this way. There are things you can do to prepare your home and family for a wildfire so that if one ever breaks out near you, you'll be ready:

Homemaking: Keeping Safety In Mind

Keep safety in mind when purchasing or maintaining your home. Make sure your home is made with fire-resistant materials so it'll be as fire-resistant as possible.

Install smoke detectors in all rooms, regularly dispose of newspapers and paper products, and stack firewood at least 10 yards away from your home. These are just some of the [many steps](#) you can take to keep your home safe.

Additionally, make sure you know whether or not your home insurance plan covers damage from wildfires. If you're in an area that's prone to wildfires, consider upgrading your insurance plan to increase your protection.

Know when wildfire season is for your location and keep an eye on breaking wildfires in your area.

Assemble Emergency Supplies

An emergency kit could make all the difference for you and your family should a wildfire strike. Pack clean water, food that won't spoil, a first aid kit, sanitary items, extra clothes, medications, and food for your pet (if you have one), in a duffel bag or trash container.

It's also a good idea to pack emergency tools like a flash light, batteries, a compass, and a battery-powered radio. Make copies of all important documents (insurance documentation, home ownership documentation, birth certificates, social security cards) and keep them with your emergency supplies.

Have a Plan to Follow In Case of a Wildfire

You won't have time to make plans once a wildfire strikes. You and your family might even be so panicked that you won't be able to think straight.

For this reason, it's a good idea to sit down with your family and have a conversation about what you'll all do in case of a wildfire. Having a family plan to follow is a powerful tool that can guide you and your family to safety. The Red Cross offers a handy [checklist](#) that acts as a great guide when you're creating your plan.

Prepare your family plan now and make sure every family member is familiar with it. Make a checklist, print it out, and keep multiple copies around the house so everyone can access it in a moment's notice. Likewise, make sure everyone knows where to find the emergency supply kit.

Evacuate

If any evacuation order is given for your area, don't hesitate. [Evacuate](#) your home immediately, and make sure you have everyone's emergency kits in tow. Think ahead of time about the best routes for you to take depending on the location of the fire. Already having these routes in mind will be a big help when you're in an emergency and may not be able to think as clearly.

Creating a plan for your family in case of a wildfire is perhaps the best step you can take to protect your loved ones. Although we can't control what challenges Mother Nature throws at us, we can control how we prepare for them, and that can make all the difference. **This document was written by Sean Morris.**

Sean Morris is a former social worker turned stay-at-home dad. He knows what it's like to juggle family and career. He did it for years until deciding to become a stay-at-home dad after the birth of his son. Though he loved his career in social work, he has found this additional time with his kids to be the most rewarding experience of his life. He began writing for [LearnFit.org](https://www.learnfit.org) to share his experiences and to help guide anyone struggling to find the best path for their life, career, and/or family.