

Live in a wildfire zone? Be prepared

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More Americans now live in wildfire zones as wildfire seasons have become longer, with hotter, faster-moving fires.

If you're one of those who live in a location threatened by [wildfires](#), it's important to be prepared, according to Environment America, a national network of 30 state environmental groups.

You should have a plan for evacuation in which everyone in your household knows the plan, including a designated place to meet outside the fire zone.

Make electronic copies of all your critical documents, including identification and proof of insurance. Be sure you can access them remotely with secure passwords.

Make evacuation plans that include several routes. Keep a first aid kit, [prescription medications](#), flashlights, food and water for people and pets, phone/device chargers, extra credit cards, cash and N95 masks in your car's trunk during fire season. Avoid flammable products.

If you don't have a car, keep those same items in a "go bag" and leave it somewhere easy to reach.

Keep your car fueled with enough gas to reach your evacuation destination.

You can also help to protect your home by repairing or renovating using fire-resistant materials, clearing leaves and other flammable materials within 30 feet of your home and creating a "clean room" in your home. A [clean room](#) is a space within your home set up to prevent wildfire smoke from getting in as much as possible, according to [airnow.gov](#).

Invest in "[hardening](#)" your home by making its structure more fire-resistant. Less expensive options include vents, rain gutters and chimney reinforcements, and more expensive choices include replacements for your roof, walls and windows.

If there is a [wildfire](#) near your area, you can monitor [air quality](#), follow local agencies to learn about [evacuation](#) orders, track active fires on [weather.gov](#) or [fire.airnow.gov](#) and sign up for emergency alerts at [ready.gov](#).

More information: Ready.gov has more on [wildfires and preparation](#).

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