



get wildfire smart

Is Your Home Ready?

Defensible Space Assess your risk and follow *Firewise.org* guidelines. Create daily, weekly and monthly landscaping to-do lists. Keep grass and weeds trimmed.

Home Maintenance Keep roof and gutters clear of debris. Complete any repairs and upgrades. Move firewood piles away from the home.

Signage Make sure your address is visible from the road. Install lighting if possible.

Smoke Alarms Install at least one on every level and change batteries once a year.

Fire Extinguishers Keep one on every level and in the garage and outbuildings; check pressure gauge/indicator every year.

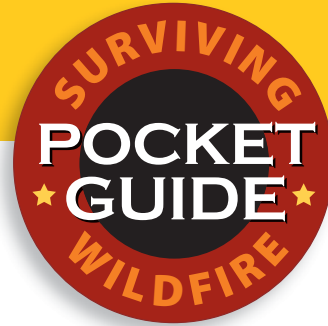
Flashlights and batteries on every floor and in vehicles.

Tools Assemble rakes, shovels, buckets and a handsaw or chainsaw and get in the habit of keeping them in one place.

Hoses and Buckets Keep a hose hooked up and ready to use by all outdoor faucets. Keep at least two 5-gallon buckets near each faucet.

Ladders Keep metal ladders quickly accessible.

Protection Keep a supply of bandanas, hats and gloves handy.



Before Wildfire Season

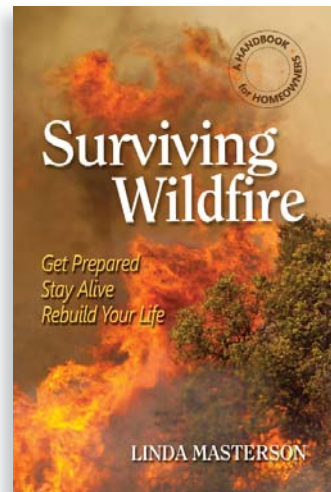
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This pocket guide is a companion to the book *Surviving Wildfire* by Linda Masterson. More info at: SurvivingWildfire.com

Are You Underinsured?

More than half of those who lose a home to wildfire are underinsured by at least 25%.

- Determine the actual cost to rebuild your home today.
- Review your coverage with your agent and update as needed.
- Report any major home improvements to your carrier within 90 days.
- Take annual photos of the exterior of your home and outbuildings from all sides.
- Do or update your home inventory.
- Take new room-by-room photos or video. Open drawers, cupboards and closets. Look up, look down. Don't skip anything.
- Document high-value and unique items, art, jewelry, antiques, collectibles.
- Store a copy of your inventory and photos somewhere safe off-premise.

Vital Information Kit

Put everything into one easy to grab file folder / tote bag / box:

- Insurance policies / contact info
- Important documents: birth certificates, marriage certificates, deeds, wills, passports, military service and discharge papers, school and medical records
- Tax, investment & banking records
- Credit/debit card account numbers
- Service providers, account numbers and contact info (utilities, phone, internet, satellite TV, cable, etc.)
- Lists of phone numbers / email contacts
- Passwords
- Building / home plans & documentation
- Cash, stocks, bearer bonds, gold, silver and coins are only minimally covered if at all. Fire safes can burn/melt. Store these items off-premise.

Emergency Kit

Store in your primary vehicle:

- Extra set of car keys
- Tool kit, duct tape, scissors, paper & pens, multi-tool
- Two-way, battery-powered radios
- Wet wipes, paper towels, sanitary supplies
- Sunglasses/goggles
- Bottled water and high-energy snacks
- First Aid kit, painkillers
- Flashlights and lots of batteries

Don't forget to take:

- Pet food, treats, crates, leashes, bowls
- Bolt cutters, chainsaw, shovel
- Blankets, sleeping bags, inflatable pillows
- Clothes, shoes, jackets, etc. for each family member

Create a Family Disaster Plan

- Register all cell phones and VOIP phones** with your County's emergency telephone authority (to receive Reverse 911 calls).
- Assemble your Vital Information & Emergency Evacuation Kits** (see previous page).
- Map alternate routes to safety in all directions.** Note the time it takes to reach safety, any potential obstacles and possible places to shelter along the way.
- Conduct a family fire drill.** Assign responsibilities and practice. Time yourself from start to ready to pull out of the driveway.

Contact info for immediate neighbors

Emergency contacts (out of fire zone)

Where to meet if evacuated (also put this info in each vehicle)

Temporary housing options (don't forget pets), including phone numbers and addresses

Your home's safety zones

Each family member's responsibilities

More Contacts & Personal Info

Your address _____

Your GPS Coordinates (for 911) _____

Gate Combinations _____

County Emergency Services: hotline phone _____

website _____

Wildfire tracking: *www.inciweb.org*

Insurance Company _____

Policy Number _____

Claims Phone Number _____

Claim Number assigned _____

Adjustor _____

Temporary Living Coordinator _____

Other Important Contacts / Info

Stay Alert During Wildfire Season

- Keep vehicles well maintained and gas tanks and windshield wiper reservoirs full.
- Store an emergency kit in your primary vehicle; refresh/replace outdated supplies.
- Maintain your defensible space regularly. Keep gutters and roof clear of debris.
- Keep cell phones, laptops and tablets charged.
- Tune scanner to your emergency frequency. Bookmark important Websites for tracking weather and wildfire activity.
- Be prepared for a power shortage.
- Clean your address sign and make sure it's readable from the road.
- Have a plan for evacuating livestock and pets.

Be Ready to Gather

Items	Notes / Where to Find
Vital Information Kit	_____
Overnight Bags	_____
Cell phones, chargers	_____
Computers, tablets, power cords	_____
Backup drives, flash drives	_____
Cameras & accessories	_____
Eyeglasses, reading glasses	_____
Prescriptions, medications	_____
Cash, credit cards, IDs, passports	_____
Family photos & heirlooms	_____
Other irreplaceable items:	
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

GO NOW! Evacuation Guide

- Turn on the police scanner.
- Gather everyone together. Go over your plan, delegate jobs, set a deadline and where to meet before leaving.
- Dress appropriately: long-sleeved shirts, pants, hats, shoes or boots and socks. No shorts or flip-flops. Avoid synthetic fabrics.
- Call immediate neighbors.
- Roll up vehicle windows.
- Point vehicles forward.
- Get animals and trailers ready to load.
- Load Emergency Kit, Vital Information Kit, and important stuff into your toughest vehicle. Don't forget overnight bags.
- Double check your lists before leaving.
- Take this Pocket Guide and your copy of *Surviving Wildfire* with you. Both contain valuable information for evacuation and recovery.

**Leave if you feel threatened.
Don't wait to be evacuated.**

Put your best driver and most dependable vehicle in the lead.

Drive slowly and watch out for emergency vehicles.

Stay calm and focused.

Inside Your Home

- Close windows and doors; don't lock.
- Close heavy curtains, shutters or metal blinds.
- Turn off air conditioners and all fans.
- Leave lights on in rooms with exterior windows. Turn on exterior lights.
- Put towels or rugs around freezers and refrigerators to protect floors when power is turned off.
- Tape an I.D. card to the door (with your name, address, cell phone numbers and email).

Outside Your Home

- Get everything flammable off your deck and away from your foundation.
- Cluster lawn and deck furniture downwind and away from the house.
- Follow emergency orders regarding sprinklers and hoses.
- Mark water sources for firefighters.
- Shut off gas lines.
- Seal exterior vents.
- Remove debris from roof and gutters.
- Leave a metal ladder near your home for the firefighters.
- Open gates, coops and barns for animals you cannot evacuate.

This pocket guide is a companion to the book *Surviving Wildfire*, which offers in-depth information on assessing your risk, defensible space you can live with, evacuation essentials, staying alive when fire threatens, understanding how insurance works, insider tips and tactics when filing a claim, picking up your pieces and starting over, and so much more.