

My Personal Wildland Fire ACTION GUIDE



Ready



Set



Go!



Ready, Set, Go!



Saving Lives and Property through Advance Planning and Action

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This publication was prepared by the International Association of Fire Chiefs' RSG! Program and supported by the USDA Forest Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the U.S. Fire Administration.

The wildland fire season is becoming a year-round reality in the Salt River Range. Alpine, Wyoming is no stranger to wildland fires. Wildfires such as the Fire Trial Fire, Marten Fire, and the Roosevelt Fire, in 2018, caused strains on firefighting resources and the residents in the area. With wildfires and the increasing population of Alpine, the need for residents to be proactive and prepared for the threat of the next wildland fire is critical.

Wildland fire is, and always has been, a natural occurrence. Hills, canyons, grasslands, and valleys in a forested environment burn periodically as part of a healthy ecosystem. Wildland fires are fueled by dry, dense vegetation, driven by increasing seasonal temperatures and fanned by dry winds. As homes are built in these areas, homes inadvertently become at risk to these natural and human caused wildfires.

The Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) for Alpine is identified as the residents that live within the more heavily vegetated and treed areas. These areas are at a higher risk to wildfire due to the vegetation, steep topography, and homes built within these wooded areas. Although the WUI area is more densely vegetated and at a higher level of risk, the valley and grassland areas still have elements of wildland fire risk that residents should consider. Through active mitigation and proper evacuation, lives and property can be significantly reduced when a wildland fire occurs.

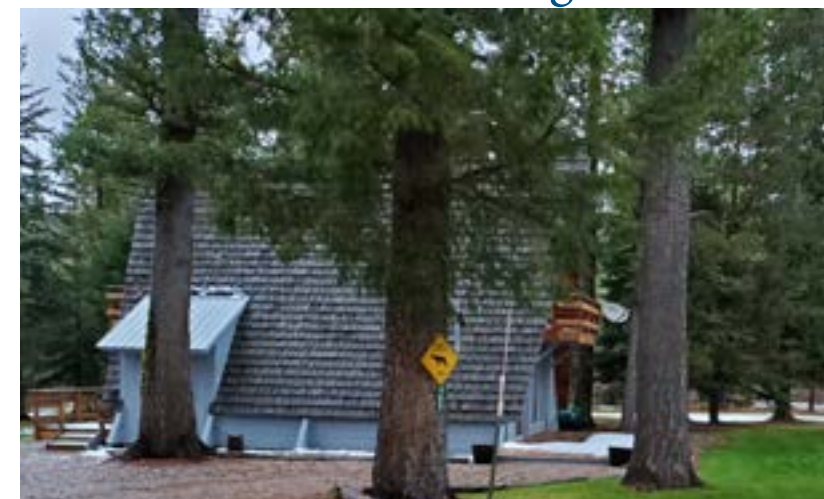
The Alpine Fire Department, along with, agency partners, formed the Alpine Area Wildfire Protection Coalition (AAWPC) in July 2019. This partnership with fire managers, land resource managers and emergency management agencies help to mitigate wildfire risk on public and private land areas, and to help develop a safe and effective collaborative response to wildfire in the Alpine area. Mitigation starts with neighborhoods and community leadership recognizing and understanding the steps needed to become a wildfire safe community. Proactive mitigation around your property and safe and early evacuation can help protect you, your household and your property. It is not a question of if, but when, the next major wildland fire will occur. The Alpine Area Wildfire Protection Coalition is dedicated to help residents reduce wildland fire risk to themselves and the greater Alpine community. This effort can only be accomplished with your help and dedication starting with your home.

In this Action Guide, we provide tips and tools you need to prepare your home, your property and your household members for a wildland fire threat; to have situational awareness when a fire starts; and to act early as directed by local officials when a wildfire occurs.

Remember, all efforts to improve defensible space on your property can decrease property damage and help firefighters with suppression efforts. Taking personal action can result in improved safety for all involved. The tips on the following pages are designed specifically for the Alpine and the greater Star Valley area and are recommendations that can be dependent on your specific risk. Ensure you follow your specific Homeowners Association or contact the Coordinator at Lincoln County Emergency Management for more information

Visit us at wildlandfireRSG.org to learn more about becoming prepared.

Ready ...begins with property owners taking action.



Keep trees pruned up and use hardscape, such as rock or gravel, near the foundation of the house.



Ensure logs are solid and properly sealed. Also ensure chinking is maintained and properly sealed.



Utilize home hardened features such as stone or concrete board to harden your siding to make it more resistant to ignition.

Defensible Space and Fire Resistant Landscaping Can... Protect Your Home

If you live next to a densely vegetated area, you should create defensible space to better protect your home and create a safer area for firefighters to operate if they have the capacity to defend your home. Creating a buffer zone by removing and thinning undesired trees, mowing grasses and brush helps keep the fire from carrying to your home and reduces the risk of ignition from flying embers.

Consider This

Unmanaged and overgrown vegetation between and around homes increases the risk of wildland fire spreading throughout the community and endangers the lives and property in the community. Pre-fire planning through mitigation and vegetation management allows firefighters the ability to fight wildland fires more safely. The work you complete today may save your home and protect firefighters tomorrow.

Ember Zone

An ember is a small, glowing fragment from a wildland fire that is carried by the wind long distances and are the primary reason homes burn. Embers travel inside your home through vents, windows, and other cracks or openings on your home. The ember zone is a one mile or more distance from a wildfire flame front where a wildfire's embers can impact or ignite your home. Embers easily collect in corners of the home along the deck or roof.

Homes in the valley can be at risk, too. Even if your home is not directly in the trees or on the mountainside, it may still be considered part of an ember zone and can be at risk to a wildfire.

Keep in mind, embers can destroy homes or neighborhoods far from the actual front of the fire. You and your home must be prepared well before a fire occurs. Use the following pages to help ready you and your home well before a fire occurs.

Red Flag Warning

A Red Flag Warning is issued by the National Weather Service when low humidity and warm weather combine to produce extreme fire behavior. Fires occurring during a Red Flag day can be very dangerous as wildland fires can spread rapidly. You should always follow the instructions provided by your local emergency response

Ready Create Defensible Space

Defensible space is the area around your home in which vegetation, debris, and other combustible fuels have been removed to slow the spread of fire to and from the home. It can better protect the home from igniting due to direct flame contact and radiant heat. Defensible space is essential to help protect the structure and create a safer area for firefighters during a wildland fire. You can create defensible space by removing weeds, brush, firewood and spacing vegetation around your property.

Although this might seem like a daunting task, we recommend starting in Zone 1 and work your way out. Follow the considerations below for each zone and your property can become safer with each step.



ZONE 1

0-5 feet around your home or to property line

- Use hard scape such as concrete or noncombustible rock mulch around your home.
- Clean roofs and gutters of dead leaves, debris and pine needles.
- Store firewood and other combustible materials away from your home, garage, or attached deck.
- Prune away touching or over-hanging branches from the roof to a distance of at least 10 feet.
- Replace or repair any loose or missing shingles or roof tiles to prevent ember penetration.
- Rake and remove flammable vegetation, such as leaves and needles or wood mulch, from underneath your deck and away from your home.
- Use non-wood, low-growing herbaceous vegetation. Low growing Fire-resistant plants are recommended choices.

ZONE 2

5-30 feet around your home or to property line

- Create vegetation groups or islands to break up continuous fuels around your home, specifically with the conifers, create adequate crown spacing.
- Remove ladder fuels to create a separation between low-level vegetation and tree canopies and keep fire from climbing into trees.
- Remove leaf and needle debris from the yard.
- Keep lawns, native grasses, and wildflowers green, mowed, and maintained.
- Store firewood and other combustible materials away from outbuildings, such as a shed or barn.
- Move trailers, recreational vehicles, propane tanks, storage sheds and other combustible structures out of this zone and into Zone 3. If unable to move, create defensible space around them as if they were a part of your home.

ZONE 3

30-200 feet around your home or to property line

- Create and maintain a minimum of 10 feet between the tops of trees.
- Safely remove ladder fuels up to a height of 10 feet, while retaining at least 75 percent of the foliage, to create separation between the ground and tree branches. This keeps fire from climbing into the canopies of the trees.
- Store firewood in this area, keeping a safe distance from your property.
- Create space between shrubs and trees to eliminate a continuous fuel bed at the ground level.
- Remove dead and down trees, shrubs and all other dead or dry vegetation.
- Create separation between your property and neighbors. Consider your trees may pose a greater risk to your neighbor than to your home.

Remember the Ember Zone

Embers are burning pieces of airborne material that can be carried more than a mile by the wind. Research points to embers and small flames as the main way homes ignite in wildland fires.

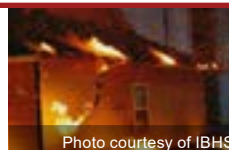
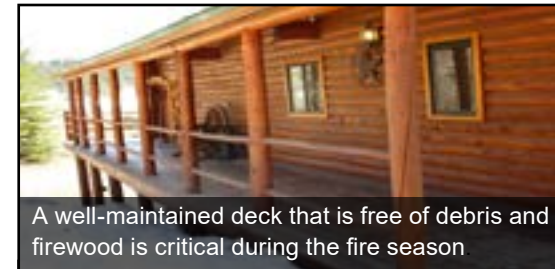


Photo courtesy of IBHS

Ready Make Your Home Fire Resistant - Harden Your Home

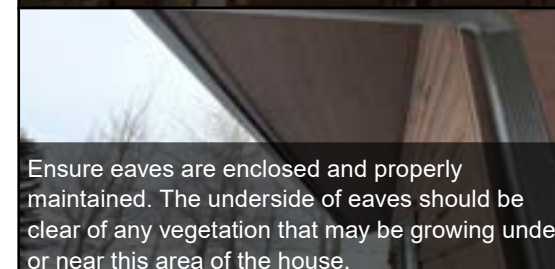
Construction materials and the quality of the defensible space surrounding the structure are what increases the chance of survival in a wildland fire. Embers from a wildland fire will find the weak spot in your home's fire protection scheme and can easily lodge in small, overlooked, or seemingly inconsequential areas. Below are some home hardening measures you can take to safeguard your home.



A well-maintained deck that is free of debris and firewood is critical during the fire season



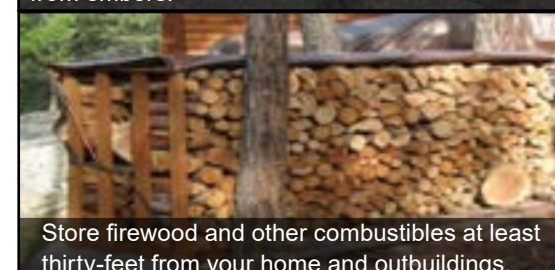
Class A rated roofs (asphalt shingles, metal, tile) significantly reduces the risk of home ignition.



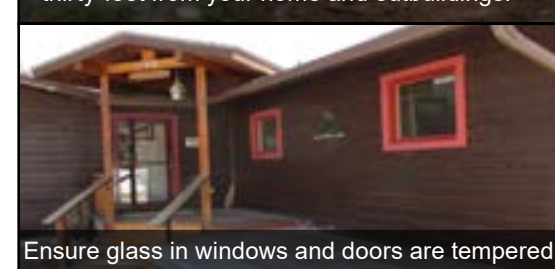
Ensure eaves are enclosed and properly maintained. The underside of eaves should be clear of any vegetation that may be growing under or near this area of the house.



Vents can be in various locations on a home. Properly screened vents are critical to protecting from embers.



Store firewood and other combustibles at least thirty-feet from your home and outbuildings.



Ensure glass in windows and doors are tempered double-pane to protect against radiant heat

Balconies and Decks

Construct your balconies or decks with noncombustible materials, and do not store combustible items underneath them. If there is a fire threat, bring any furniture into your home. Embers can collect in or on combustible surfaces, or beneath decks and balconies, igniting the material and giving a path for the fire to enter your home. Remove pine needles, leaves, grass, or any other flammable materials from underneath your deck.

Roofs

Roofs are vulnerable to embers that become lodged and can start a fire, especially anywhere on the roof with litter buildup. Roof valleys, open ends of barrel tiles, and rain gutters are all points of entry. Block off all open spaces, and regularly inspect these areas. Remove any combustible material.

Eaves

Embers can gather under open eaves and ignite combustible material. Enclose your eaves with non-combustible or ignition resistant material to prevent ember intrusion, and regularly clear away debris that collects here.

Vents

Embers can enter the attic or other concealed spaces and ignite combustible materials through open and unscreened vents. Vents in eaves, gables and cornices are particularly vulnerable if not properly screened with wire mesh. Use corrosion resistant metal mesh to screen all vents, and check them regularly to remove any debris that collects in front of the screen.

Walls and Fencing

Combustible siding or fencing provide surfaces and crevices for embers to nestle and ignite. Ensure wooden fences do not connect directly to the house. Create a break in the fence by using a gate or non-combustible substitute to connect to the house. Build or remodel with noncombustible or ignition-resistant materials wherever possible, regularly clear away debris from any crevices, and perform annual upkeep.

Windows and Doors

Embers can enter gaps in doors, including garage doors. Install weather proofing around your garage door, and if your garage is attached to your home make sure the interior door is solid and on self-closing hinges.

Plants or combustible storage near windows can be ignited from embers and generate heat that can break windows and/or melt combustible frames. Wherever possible, use dual-pane windows with tempered glass, as they are less likely to shatter from radiant heat.

Tour a Wildland Fire Prepared Home

Eaves: Box in eaves with noncombustible or ignition resistant material to prevent ember intrusion. If wood is used, ensure they are well maintained and properly stained or painted.

Vents: At a minimum, all vent openings should be covered with 1/8-inch corrosion resistant metal mesh.

Chimney: Ensure your chimney or stovepipe outlets are equipped with a spark arrestor that has a mesh size no greater than 1/2-inch and cleaned annually. This limits the size particulate leaving the chimney.

Walls and Siding: Build or retrofit your home with ignition resistant siding such as fibrous cement board, stucco, metal or stone. Heavy construction homes are also encouraged, as long as they remain maintained, stained, and properly sealed when cracks or openings develop.

Combustibles and other hazards: Keep firewood, fuel storage, propane tanks, and the storage of recreational vehicles clear of vegetation that can cause it to ignite from an ember. Combustible items should be properly stored, secured, cleared of other sources of possible heat, and kept at least thirty-feet from the house and outbuildings.

Deck/Patio: Use heavy timber or noncombustible construction for decks and patios. Keep your deck clear of combustible items, such as firewood, grasses, and vegetation.

Driveways: Driveways should be designed to allow emergency vehicles and their equipment to reach your house. Ensure that all gate openings, bridges, or culverts crossings are wide enough to accommodate emergency

Neighborhood Evacuation: Ensure you know more than one way out of your neighborhood. With limited one way in and one way out communities, make sure you leave early and do not return to your home until told to do so by authorities.

Windows: Radiant heat from burning vegetation or a nearby structure can cause the glass in a window to melt and break. This will allow flames to enter your home and start internal fires. Dual paned tempered glass windows reduce the chance of breakage during a fire.

Water Sources: Keep fire hydrants, well heads, and water tanks clear of debris and vegetation. Ensure they are clearly marked and easily identifiable during all seasons and weather.

Address Signage: Ensure your address is clearly marked, visible, and legible from the road. Reflective signage is the most effective and may be offered locally with Lincoln County Planning and Zoning.

Home Site and Yard: Ensure all vegetation within 200 feet or to property line is well-managed, trimmed, and grasses are kept short near the home. This defensible space area may need to be enlarged in heavily forested properties due to topographic conditions. This may mean considering the impacts if you are near a slope or your neighbor's yard can impact your wildland fire risk. Maintain your defensible space and keep woodpiles, propane tanks, and other combustible materials away from your home and other structures.

Create Your Own Action Guide



Your Wildland Fire Action Guide must be prepared with all members of your household well in advance of a wildland fire. Use these checklists to help you get Ready and Set with situational awareness in the threat of wildland fire.

Ready Get Ready

- Sign up online and register your home and cell phone for CodeRED with Lincoln County Emergency Management Office.
- Create a Household Action Plan that includes evacuation meeting locations and communication plans - rehearse it regularly. Include the evacuation of all pets and large animals, which may include horses and livestock, in your plan.
 - Designate an emergency meeting location outside the wildland fire hazard area.
 - Plan and practice several different evacuation routes.
- Have fire extinguishers on hand and teach your household how to use them.
- Ensure that everyone in your household knows where your gas, electric, and water main shut-off controls are located and how to use them.
- Assemble a Go Kit as recommended by the American Red Cross. Keep an extra kit in your vehicle. Check page 10 for a list of recommended emergency supplies.
 - Maintain a list of emergency contact numbers in your Go Kit.
 - Have a portable radio or scanner so you can stay updated on the fire and weather emergency announcements.
- Assemble a Go Kit for your pet(s) including food, water, medications, and vaccination records.
- Appoint an out-of-area friend or relative as a point of contact so you can communicate with family members.
- Contact the Fuels Mitigation Coordinator at Lincoln County Emergency Management to request a home risk assessment and discuss what you can do to further prepare your home.

REMEMBER THE 8 P'S!

- People & Animals
- Pictures & Photo Albums
- PC's
- Papers (important)
- Prescriptions & Medications (don't forget your pets!)
- Plastics (credit cards)
- Personal Devices (phones and chargers)
- Passports & IDs



Set Prepare and Be Aware

- Monitor fire weather conditions and fire status. Check the Lincoln County Emergency Management or Alpine Fire Department, Alpine Area Wildfire Protection Coalition websites, and social media accounts for wildland fire information. Stay tuned to your TV or local radio stations for updates, including Red Flag Warnings in your area.
- Alert household and neighbors.
- Dress in appropriate clothing (i.e., clothing made from natural fibers, such as cotton, and work boots). Have goggles and a dry bandana or particle mask handy.
- Ensure that you have your Go Kit on hand that includes all necessary items, such as a battery powered radio, spare batteries, emergency contact numbers, and drinking water.
- Remain close to your house, drink plenty of water, and ensure your household members and pets are accounted for and ready to leave.

INSIDE CHECKLIST, IF TIME ALLOWS

- Close all windows and doors.
- Remove all shades and curtains from windows and ensure all blinds remain open.
- Move furniture to the center of the room, away from windows and doors.
- Turn off pilot lights and air conditioning units.
- Leave your lights on so firefighters can see your house under smoky conditions.

OUTSIDE CHECKLIST, IF TIME ALLOWS

- Make sure combustible items are a safe distance away from the exterior of the house (e.g., patio furniture, children's toys, door mats, etc.) If you have time, place these items inside your garage or home where they will not become a hazard.
- Turn off propane tanks and other gas at the meter.
- Don't leave sprinklers on or water running. They can effect critical water pressure.
- Leave exterior lights on.
- Back your car into the driveway to facilitate a quick departure. Shut doors and roll up windows.
- Have a ladder ready to cover attic vents and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or commercial seals. Do so in a safe manner, and **only if time permits.**
- Patrol your property and extinguish small fires, if you can do so safely, until you leave.

IF YOU ARE TRAPPED: SURVIVAL TIPS

- If you have become trapped and cannot evacuate, call 9-1-1 immediately.
- Stay in your home, sheltering away from walls, until the fire passes or emergency personnel tell you differently. Follow their instructions and commands.
- Look for spot fires and extinguish if found inside house.
- Wear long sleeves, long pants and a bandana made of natural fibers, such as cotton.
- Stay hydrated.
- Ensure you can exit the home if it catches fire (remember if it's hot inside the house, it is four to five times hotter outside, be prepared).
- Fill sinks and tubs for an emergency water supply.
- Place wet towels under doors to keep smoke and embers out.
- After the fire has passed, check your roof and extinguish any fires, sparks or embers if you are able to safely do so. Check the attic as well.

Go! Act Early

Leaving early gives you and your household members the best chance of surviving a wildland fire. You also help firefighters by keeping roads clear of congestion, enabling them to move more freely and do their job in a safer environment. Be sure to follow the direction of your local authorities.

WHEN TO LEAVE

Do not wait to be advised to leave if there is a possible threat to your home or evacuation route. Leave early enough to avoid being caught in areas with a one way in and one way out situation. If you are advised to leave by local authorities, do not hesitate!

WHERE TO GO

Go to a predetermined location (it should be a low-risk area, such as a relative's house, a Red Cross shelter or evacuation center, motel, etc.)

HOW TO GET THERE

Have several travel routes in case one route is blocked by the fire or by emergency vehicles. Choose the safest route away from the fire.

WHAT TO TAKE

Take your Go Kit containing your household members' and pet's necessary items.

EMERGENCY SUPPLIES LIST FOR GO KIT

The American Red Cross recommends every household have an emergency supply kit assembled long before a wildland fire or other emergency occurs. Use the checklist below to help assemble yours. For more information on emergency supplies visit redcross.org/get-help.

- Three-day supply of water (one gallon per person, per day) and non-perishable food for household members (3 day supply).
- First aid kit and sanitation supplies, including toilet paper and baby wipes.
- Flashlight, battery-powered radio, and extra batteries.
- An extra set of car keys, credit cards, cash, or traveler's checks.
- Extra eyeglasses, contact lenses, prescriptions, and medications.
- Important household member documents and contact numbers, including insurance documents.
- Map marked with evacuation routes. It is important to have a printed map in case your phone dies. It may also be easier to see the printed map than a phone screen under smokey conditions.
- Easily carried valuables and irreplaceable items.
- Personal electronic devices and chargers.
- Keep a pair of old shoes and a flashlight handy in case of a sudden evacuation at night.



My Personal Wildland Fire ACTION PLAN

Write up your Wildland Fire Action Plan and post it in a location where every member of your household can see it. Rehearse it with your household.

During high-fire-danger days in your area, monitor your local media for information and be ready to implement your plan. Hot, dry, and windy conditions create the perfect environment for a wildland fire.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Out-of-Area Contact _____ Phone: _____

Work _____

School _____

Other _____

EVACUATION ROUTES

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

WHERE TO GO

READY, SET, GO!

LOCATION OF GO KIT(S)

NOTES

Contact the Alpine Fire Department and Lincoln County Emergency Management Office for more tips on preparing before a wildland fire:

Alpine Fire Department - 307-654-7581

Lincoln County Emergency Management - 307-877-9835



My Personal Wildland Fire ACTION PLAN

Residential Safety Checklist

Tips to Improve Household and Property Survival During a Wildland Fire

Ready

Get Ready

- Dispose of or relocate combustible material from around your home.
- Trim trees and bushes allowing ample space between your home and landscape vegetation.
- Arrange your Go Kit with prescription medication, emergency supplies, important documents and other essential items.
- Sign up for CodeRED: https://www.lcwy.org/departments/emergency_management/emergency_notifications.php.

Set

Prepare and Be Aware

- Make sure you have your Go Kit on hand in an accessible place.
- Alert household and neighbors of your action plan. Ensure your household members and pets are accounted for and ready to leave.
- Monitor local fire weather conditions and listen to emergency notification systems.

Go!

Act Early

- Get your Go Kit and leave well before the threat approaches following a planned, accessible route.
 - Stay aware of the situation and follow your plan.
- Cooperate with local authorities during evacuation and re-entry processes



wildlandfireRSG.org

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