

Wild Fires Often Begin Unnoticed

More and more people are making their homes in woodland settings, rural areas or remote mountain sites. Residents enjoy the beauty of the environment but face the very real danger of wild fires. Wild fires often begin unnoticed. They spread quickly, igniting brush, trees and homes. In a wild fire, every second counts!

Plan ahead and stay as safe as possible during a wild fire.

- ❑ Learn about wild fire risks in your area.
- ❑ Talk with members of your household about wild fires—how to prevent them and what to do if one occurs.
- ❑ Post emergency phone numbers by every phone in your home.
- ❑ Make sure driveway entrances and your house number or address are clearly marked.
- ❑ Identify and maintain an adequate water source outside your home, such as a small pond, cistern, well or swimming pool.
- ❑ Set aside household items that can be used as fire tools: a rake, ax, hand saw or chain saw, bucket and shovel. You may need to fight small fires before emergency responders arrive.
- ❑ Select building materials and plants that resist fire.
- ❑ Regularly clean roofs and gutters.
- ❑ Plan and practice two ways out of your neighborhood in case your primary route is blocked.
- ❑ Select a place for family members to meet outside your neighborhood in case you cannot get home or need to evacuate.
- ❑ Identify someone who is out of the area to contact if local phone lines are not working.
- ❑ Be ready to leave at a moment's notice.
- ❑ Listen to local radio and television stations for updated emergency information.