

By leaving early, you give your family the best chance of surviving a wildfire. You also help firefighters by keeping roads clear of congestion, enabling them to move more freely and do their job.

## WHEN TO LEAVE

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Leave early enough to avoid being caught in fire, smoke or road congestion. Don't wait to be told by authorities to leave. In an intense wildfire, they may not have time to knock on every door. If you are advised to leave, don't hesitate!

## WHERE TO GO

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

## HOW TO GET THERE

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

## WHAT TO TAKE

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Take your emergency supply kit containing your family and pet's necessary items.



## EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

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The American Red Cross recommends every family have an emergency supply kit assembled long before a wildfire or other emergency occurs. Use the checklist below to help assemble yours. For more information on emergency supplies, visit the American Red Cross Web site at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).

- Three-day supply of water (one gallon per person per day).
- Non-perishable food for all family members and pets (three-day supply).
- First aid kit.
- Flashlight, battery-powered radio, and extra batteries.
- An extra set of car keys, credit cards, cash or traveler's checks.
- Sanitation supplies.
- Extra eyeglasses or contact lenses.
- Important family documents and contact numbers.
- Map marked with evacuation routes.
- Prescriptions or special medications.
- Family photos and other irreplaceable items.
- Easily carried valuables.
- Personal computers (information on hard drives and disks).
- Chargers for cell phones, laptops, etc.

Note: Keep a pair of old shoes and a flashlight handy in case of a sudden evacuation at night.

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

# My Personal Wildfire Action Plan

During High Fire Danger days in your area, monitor your local media for information on wildfires and be ready to implement your plan. Hot, dry and windy conditions create the perfect environment for a wildfire.

## Important Phone Numbers:

Out-of-State Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Evacuation Routes: \_\_\_\_\_

Where to go: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Emergency Supply Kit: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

# READY, SET, GO!

## Create Your Own Wildfire Action Plan

# Ranchers and Rural Residents

### Prepare Your Property

- Establish and maintain firebreaks around pastures and structures.
- Create defensible space around all structures.
- Reinforce fences with metal posts if applicable.
- Create a safe zone clear of all vegetation for equipment.
- Clear vegetation around fuel tanks and other highly combustible equipment.

# GET READY

### Prepare Your Family

- Create a Family Disaster Plan that includes meeting locations and communication plans and rehearse it regularly. Include in your plan the evacuation of large animals such as horses.
- Know your evacuation routes (have more than one exit from your headquarters and primary residence).
- Pre-program your GPS device with multiple escape routes, as visibility may be low.
- Assemble an emergency supply kit as recommended by the American Red Cross.
- Appoint an out-of-area friend or relative as a point of contact so you can communicate with family members who have relocated.
- Keep an emergency supply kit in all ranch and personal vehicles.

### Prepare Your Animals

- Create a livestock evacuation plan.
- Ensure proper registering and branding of livestock.
- Establish contingency plan for feeding livestock if graze land is destroyed by fire.



# GET SET

## As the Fire Approaches

### YOUR PROPERTY

- Open/unlock gates so livestock can escape flames.
- Hook up your stock trailer and load your animals.
- Close all gates behind horses if they cannot be loaded; they WILL run back into a burning building.
- Move equipment into a safe zone that is clear of combustible fuels.
- Close all doors and windows and turn on exterior/interior lights in barns and other structures.
- Shut off gas supply and propane tanks.



### YOUR FAMILY

- Be ready to go at a moment's notice.
- Alert family and ranch hands.
- Dress in appropriate clothing (i.e. cotton, work boots, goggles, dry bandana, gloves, Nomex).
- Ensure you and your family have separate emergency kits in case you get separated.
- Monitor the radio or Internet for fire updates or call your wildland urban interface specialist.
- Stay hydrated.



### COMMUNICATE WITH FIRE PERSONNEL BEFORE FIRE SEASON BEGINS

- Contact your Texas Forest Service regional fire coordinator or local fire department to coordinate firefighting on your property.
- Keep copies of gate keys and a written list of combinations in a known location.
- If you would like to offer your equipment (water tank, tractor), for firefighting, make arrangements and contracts prior to use for proper tracking and reimbursement.



# Go! | *Early!*

## GO EARLY!

Evacuate your family, pets, livestock and cherished possessions to a safe area and monitor for updates.

If you choose to stay with your property, make sure your family is considered first. Decide who stays and who evacuates (consider very young children, elderly or ill family members).

Nothing you own is worth your family members' lives.



## STAY AND DEFEND

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Call your local fire department.

Have spare gate keys and combination lists ready for responders.

If you have prior contracts for equipment use, be ready to coordinate with fire operations personnel.

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## FIRE TIPS FOR TEXAS RANCHERS

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Offer knowledge of your area to fire crews. Your knowledge of access roads, location of structures, location of water sources, fence lines and geography of the land can prove helpful to fire crews who may not be familiar with the area.

Communicate with fire operations. Ask questions, offer assistance, give permission ... Chances are if a fire is on your ranch, fire crews will need to be in contact with you. Be patient and understand that there are many moving parts to a fire operation. Sometimes decisions require communication between several stakeholders and may take longer than you are accustomed to.

Don't panic or jump to conclusions. Firefighters and ranchers in Texas have the same goals when a wildfire occurs - to protect lives, property and livelihoods. Grazing areas and stored hay can be a costly loss for ranchers. By offering your knowledge and communicating with fire operations, fire crews can run an operation effectively and efficiently while protecting what is important to you.

# Ready, Set, Go!

Preparing for the devastation of wildfire on your ranch can protect your family, property and livelihood. If the time comes for you to leave your headquarters or homestead behind, you will want to know that you have done everything possible ahead of time to prevent costly losses.

The local and state contacts below can assist your efforts.

## Important Contacts:

If a fire is on your property, call 911.

Fire Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Sheriff's Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Texas AgriLife Extension Service County Extension Agent: \_\_\_\_\_

Texas Forest Service Regional Fire Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_

Texas Forest Service Wildland Urban Interface Specialist: \_\_\_\_\_

Local USDA Service Center: \_\_\_\_\_

Farm Service Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Natural Resources Conservation Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

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International Association of Fire Chiefs  
4025 Fair Ridge Dr.  
Fairfax, VA 22033  
(703) 273 0911  
[www.iafc.org/ReadySetGo](http://www.iafc.org/ReadySetGo)

# READY, SET, GO!

## Residential Safety Checklist Tips To Improve Family and Property Survival During A Wildfire

Home	Yes	No
1. Does your home have a metal, composition, or tile (or other non-combustible) roof with capped ends and covered fascia?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Are the rain gutters and roof free of leaves, needles and branches?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Are all vent openings screened with 1/8 inch (or smaller) mesh metal screen?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Are approved spark arrestors on chimneys?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Does the house have non-combustible siding material?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Are the eaves "boxed in" and the decks enclosed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Are the windows made of at least double-paned or tempered glass?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Are the decks, porches and other similar areas made of non-combustible material and free of easily combustible material (e.g. plastic furniture)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Is all firewood at least 30 feet from the house?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Defensible Space	Yes	No
1. Is dead vegetation cleared to the recommended defensible space area? (Consider adding distance due to slope of property.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Is there separation between shrubs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Are ladder fuels removed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Is there a clean and green area extending at least 30 feet from the house?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Is there a non-combustible area within five feet of the house?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Is there separation between trees and crowns?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Emergency Access	Yes	No
1. Is the home address visible from the street?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Is the home address made of fire-resistant materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Are street signs present at every intersection leading to the house?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Are street signs made of fire-resistant materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Is flammable vegetation within 10 feet of the driveway cleared and are overhanging obstructions removed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. If a long driveway is present, does it have a suitable turnaround area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>