

READY, SET, GO!

YOUR PERSONAL HAWAII WILDLAND FIRE ACTION GUIDE

Rev. 2025



This guide was developed by Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization, in partnership with:



READY, SET, GO!

Wildland Fire Action Guide

Saving Lives and Property Through
Advanced Planning



Fire season is a year-round reality in areas across the Hawaiian Islands, requiring firefighters and residents to be on heightened alert for the threat of wildland fire.

Each year, wildland fires consume hundreds of homes across the nation in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI), an area where human development meets or mixes with natural vegetation. Hawai'i faces a similar risk. Studies show that as many as 80 percent of the homes lost to wildland fires could have been saved if their owners had only followed a few simple fire prevention practices. Wildland fire-related deaths occur because people wait too long to leave their home.

In the event of a wildland fire, our firefighters respond to help protect you and your property. However, the reality is that in a major wildland fire event, there will simply not be enough fire resources or firefighters to defend every home.

Successfully preparing for a wildland fire enables you to proactively take personal responsibility for protecting yourself, your family, and your property. In this Action Guide, we hope to provide the tips and tools you need to prepare for a wildland fire threat (Ready), have situational awareness when a fire starts (Set), and to act early (Go!).

The Ready, Set, Go! Program is complementary and collaborative with the Firewise USA® program and other existing wildland fire public education efforts. Utilizing firefighters and local wildland fire prevention expertise, it amplifies their messages to individuals to better achieve the common goal of wildland fire preparedness.

Many residents have built homes and landscaped without fully understanding the impact a fire can have on them, and few have adequately prepared their families for a quick evacuation.

It's not a question of **if**, but **when**, the next major wildland fire will occur. Through planning, understanding, and preparation, we can all be partners in the wildland fire solution. We hope you find the tips on the following pages helpful in creating awareness and a more fire-safe environment for you, your family, and first responders.

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Living in the Wildland Urban Interface and the Ember Zone

Ready, Set, Go! Begins with a House That Firefighters Can Defend

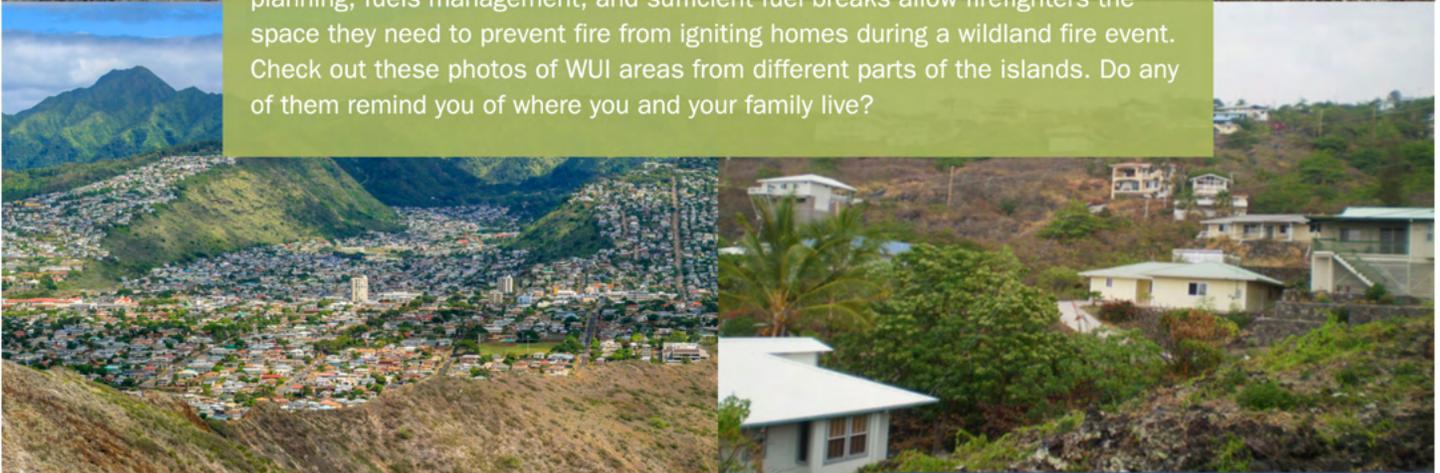
Building a Buffer Works!

If you live next to a wildland area, the Wildland Urban Interface, you should manage your home and landscape to provide firefighters with the buffer zone they need to protect your home. The buffer zone you create by removing weeds, brush, vegetation, and household combustibles helps keep the fire away from your home and reduces the risk of ignition from flying embers. The Firewise USA Communities Program, the Wildfire Home Risk Assessment Program, and other wildland fire preparedness education programs provide valuable guidance on fire prevention.



Consider This

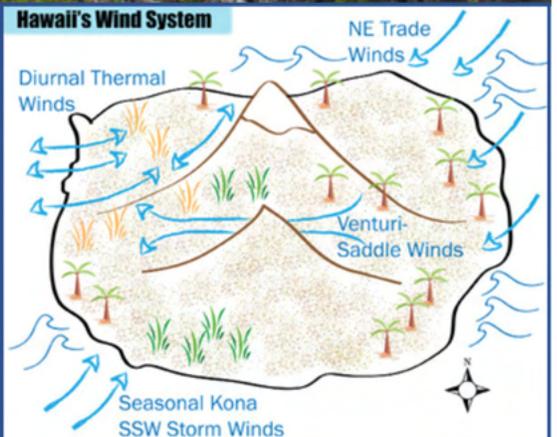
Unmanaged vegetation between and around homes increases the risk of fire spreading throughout the community, endangering lives and property. Pre-fire planning, fuels management, and sufficient fuel breaks allow firefighters the space they need to prevent fire from igniting homes during a wildland fire event. Check out these photos of WUI areas from different parts of the islands. Do any of them remind you of where you and your family live?



It's Not Just Homes on the Edge of the Wildland That Are at Risk

A home within one mile of a wildland area is in the Ember Zone. Wind-driven embers can attack your home. You and your home must be prepared well before a fire occurs. Ember fires can destroy homes or neighborhoods far from the actual flame front of the wildland fire. In Hawai'i, these threats are intensified by the interaction of thermal, saddle, storm, and trade winds, which together create a complex system of strong and unpredictable winds.

Fire is wind-driven.
Know your wind-related risks.



Hawai'i's Growing Wildland Fire Problem

And Why We Should Be Concerned

Traditionally, Hawai'i ecosystems existed with a very limited presence of wildland fire. However, as climate conditions and land uses have changed over recent time, non-native, fire-adapted vegetation has rapidly spread through our wildland landscapes and toward community boundaries. In addition, communities are expanding further into fire-prone areas, increasing the risk of wildland fires that threaten natural resources, including native habitats, and people's lives and homes.

Impacts on Natural Resources



Invasive vegetation such as guinea and fountain grass grow and spread easily and rapidly.



These grasses also ignite easily. After the fire, they re-sprout and out-compete native plants, spreading over a larger area than before.



All it takes is another spark and the same area will burn hotter, more intensely, and over a larger area than before. This creates a vicious fire cycle.

Wildland fire, fueled by the build-up of dry vegetation and driven by a complex system of hot dry winds, is extremely difficult, expensive, and dangerous to control. Hawai'i's wide diversity of challenging terrains add to the challenge for firefighters.



Did You Know?

26% of the state land cover is nonnative grassland. These grasses are fire-prone and spread more and more with each fire.

Mauka Fires Affect Makai Health and Safety



Large fires destroy vegetation that help hold down soil. Heavy winds can lift the soil and create dust storms that impact air quality and human health.



In addition, Hawai'i's high-intensity rain events can sweep away soil through erosion, runoff, and landslides.



Rivers and streams carry the debris and sediment into the ocean polluting coral reefs and negatively affecting sea life. This adversely affects commerce such as fishing and marine/coastal-based tourism.

Impacts on People & Communities

Towns and cities expanding outwardly into formerly undeveloped areas...

and large areas of fallow, invasive, or unmanaged vegetation...

and a steady increase in human ignition sources via human error and intention...



Did You Know?

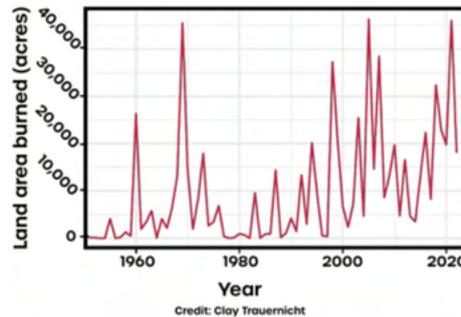
Hawai'i experiences more than 1,000 wildfires per year, burning an average of 20,000-40,000 acres each year.

On average, every island has at least one 1,000 acre fire every year.

Wildfires in Hawai'i are increasing in size, frequency, and impacts.

Every island and every area (windward, leeward, mauka, makai) can be at risk under the right conditions, mainly during periods of dry weather and high winds.

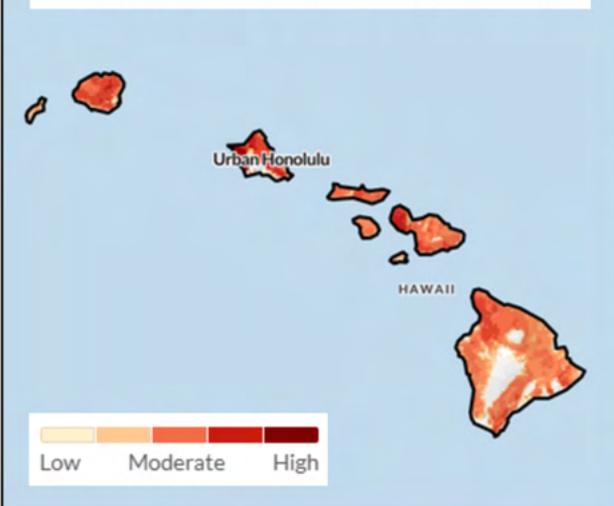
Hawai'i Land Area Burned by Wildfires Since 1950



...are increasing the size, frequency, and intensity of fires across all of the islands on both wet and dry sides.

Future Outlook

WILDFIRE LIKELIHOOD IN HAWAII



Climate change is increasing the length and frequency of drought periods, creating drier conditions. Scientists predict these trends will continue and even worsen. Enhanced drought will result in larger fires that are more severe and intense. Low risk areas in the map to the left may be at increased risk during dry periods. Under certain conditions, during dry periods and heavy winds, anywhere can burn, and we are seeing that occur. Taking action to prepare your property lessens the risk of losing your home.

The Wildfire Likelihood in Hawai'i map (left) was the result of an effort that looked at 36 hazard characteristics that contribute to wildfire risk for neighborhoods and communities (gray areas were NOT assessed). Many of Hawai'i's communities are at moderate to high risk of wildfire for reasons ranging from climate, to lack of water, to lack of community awareness and action. We can address these challenges with collaborative action.

How You Can Make a Difference

We need to create **resilient landscapes and communities** across Hawai'i. You can play a significant role by increasing resilience in and around your own home and preparing your family for a potential wildland fire event.

The Home Ignition Zones (HIZ)

The **Home Ignition Zones (HIZ)** concept, developed by Dr. Jack Cohen, shows a home's ignitability is determined by local conditions—like embers and small surface fires—not the main wildfire. By managing the fuel loads in each of the three home ignition zones, you can critically reduce your risk from embers, radiant heat, and direct flame.



Credit source: NFPA

Non-Combustible Zone or Zone 0 (0-5 feet):

The first 5 feet around your home, known as the Non-Combustible Zone (NCZ), is the most critical area to keep clear of vegetation and other combustible materials. Begin mitigation at the house itself and work outward.

1. **Roofs and Gutters:** Clean roofs, gutters, and roof valleys of all debris (leaves, pine needles, etc.). Repair or replace any loose or missing shingles or tiles to prevent ember entry.
2. **Vents and Openings:** Install 1/8-inch metal mesh screening on all attic, foundation, and eave vents to block embers. Check and repair any damaged or loose window screens and broken windows.

3. **Decks and Patios:** Screen in areas below decks and patios to prevent the accumulation of debris and combustible materials. Do not store anything combustible underneath them.
4. **Immediate Home Perimeter:** Remove any combustible materials from the area directly next to the house walls. This includes combustible mulch, dry plants, leaves, and firewood piles.
5. **Gaps and Cracks:** Seal any gaps or cracks in the exterior of your home, including the roof assembly, to prevent embers from getting inside.

Intermediate Zone or Zone 1 (5-30 feet):

Employ Firewise landscaping and hardscaping techniques to create breaks that slow a fire's spread by increasing the space between plants, trees, and your home.

1. **Reduce Ground Fuels:** Keep grasses mowed to four inches or less, and clear all vegetation from underneath large propane tanks. Tree canopy shade helps suppress invasive grasses while maintaining soil moisture.
2. **Break Up Vegetation:** Create fuel breaks using driveways, paths, patios, and decks to slow a fire's spread. Limit trees and shrubs to small clusters to prevent a continuous path for fire.
3. **Eliminate Ladder Fuels:** Prune trees to a height of six to ten feet from the ground to prevent a surface fire from climbing into the crowns. For shorter trees, don't prune more than one-third of the total height.
4. **Space Out Trees:** Ensure there is at least ten feet of space between mature tree canopies and any structures. Maintain a minimum of eighteen feet between tree crowns, increasing that distance on sloped terrain.*
5. **Strategic Tree Placement:** Plan the placement of new trees so their mature canopies will be no closer than ten feet to the edge of your home or other structures.

Extended Zone or Zone 2 (30-100+ feet):

The goal here is not to eliminate fire, but instead, to reduce dense vegetation to interrupt fire's path and keep flames smaller and on the ground.

1. **Clear Out Dead Material:** Remove dead plants, trees, and heavy amounts of leaves or pine needles from your yard.
2. **Separate Trees:** Remove any small brush or other vegetation growing between mature trees to prevent fire from spreading between them.
3. **Protect Outbuildings:** Clear all vegetation away from sheds, storage buildings, and other structures on your property.
4. **Trees 30 to 60 feet from the home** should have at least 12 feet between canopy tops.*
5. **Trees 60 to 100 feet from the home** should have at least 6 feet between the canopy tops.*

*The distances listed for crown spacing are suggested based on NFPA 1144 <https://www.nfpa.org/codes-and-standards/nfpa-1144-standard-development/1144>. However, the crown spacing needed to reduce/prevent crown fire potential could be significantly greater due to slope, the species of trees involved and other site specific conditions. Check with your local forestry professional to get advice on what is appropriate for your property.

Actions You Can Take Today!



Weed around the property regularly, especially in areas where mowing isn't practical (tall dry grasses, rocky terrain, etc.).



Remove leaf litter and other debris that accumulate around the building, under vegetation, and other collection areas.



Remove leaf litter, straw and other debris from under and around propane tanks to create 10 feet of clearance around it.



Prune tree branches around your property to a height of at least 6 feet from the ground to eliminate ladder fuels. Use tools like a bypass lopper, pruning saw, or long-reach hand pruner.



Remove combustible materials from underneath the house, decks, porches, and lanai. Install screening around the base of elevated homes to block embers from collecting underneath.



Mow the lawn regularly to keep grasses shorter than 4 inches tall around the home. Do not mow in the heat of the day or when the wind is blowing. Never mow in dry vegetation.

Watch Out for Exotic Vegetation

Non-native trees, such as ironwood (seen below), constantly drop needles, leaves, branches, and other debris, so it's best to stay on top of removing them from the ground before the pile becomes a major project. Consider reforesting these areas with native trees that don't drop large amounts of debris.

Invasive grasses such as guinea and fountain grass grow rapidly when unmanaged and can dry out very quickly, creating a major fire hazard. Weed them often and consider replanting with low-lying, drought-tolerant, native ground cover.



Planting Pono

Consider selecting native plants from this list that are most appropriate to your area.

- These are just a few recommendations of native species to consider.
- Make sure you're purchasing plants from a reputable native plant nursery.



'Ilima Papa



Kōlea



'Ākia



'A'ali'i



'Akoko



Māmaki



'Ōhi'a Lehua



Pōhinahina



Koki'o Ke'oke'o



'Iliahi



'Ūlei



'Āweoweo



Pā'ū O Hi'iaka



Nehe



Alahe'e



Kupukupu



Kolomona



Pua Kala



Kou



'Uki'uki



Ma'o



Pōhuehue



Ko'oko'olau



'Ilie'e

Image Credit: Forest & Kim Starr, DOFAW, and DLNR

Planting pono can create a fire-safe and beautiful property. By choosing the right native, drought-tolerant plants for the right places (a practice called xeriscaping) and providing the right care, you can manage your Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) without sacrificing greenery. With this approach, you can:

- **Protect your home** from ember ignition and fire spread.
- **Beautify your property** with native plants.
- **Decrease maintenance needs** for your landscaping.
- **Mālama 'Āina**—perpetuate important natural and cultural resources.

For the drier areas of Hawai'i, consider that native dryland plants are specially adapted to local conditions and require less upkeep, water, and fire maintenance, saving yourself a great deal of time, money, and resources. Non-native, lush plants often drop hazardous debris and can become fire prone in drought conditions.

Homes with Great Xeriscaping



Did You Know?

The same winds that blow hazardous debris toward a collection area (underneath shrubs, under the lanai, next to outer edges of home, etc.) will likely carry embers during a wildland fire to that same spot, and ignite that pile. That's why it's incredibly important to consistently remove debris from these areas long before a wildland fire occurs.

Home Hardening

Home hardening reduces your home's vulnerability to embers, heat, and flame. A home's best chance to survive a wildfire depends on its construction materials and the quality of the surrounding landscape. Wildfire embers will exploit any weak link in your home's fire protection scheme and gain the upper hand because of a small, overlooked, or seemingly inconsequential factor. Each step you take to use fire-resistant materials and improve your Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) increases your home's and family's safety and survival during a wildland fire.

Home Improvements

Gutter Guards or Screens



Enclosed Eaves



Screened Vents



Non-Combustible Fencing



Windows Clear of Vegetation



ROOFS

Roofs are the most vulnerable surface where embers land because they can lodge and start a fire. Roof valleys, open ends of barrel tiles and rain **gutters** are all points of entry.

EAVES

Embers can gather under open **eaves** and ignite exposed wood or other combustible material.

VENTS

Embers can enter the attic or other concealed spaces and ignite combustible materials. **Vents** in eaves and cornices are particularly vulnerable, as are any unscreened vents.

WALLS and FENCING

Combustible siding or other combustible or overlapping materials provide surfaces or crevices for embers to nestle and ignite. Combustible **fencing** can become engulfed and if attached to the home's sidings can carry the fire right to the home.

WINDOWS and DOORS

Embers can enter gaps in doors, including garage doors. Plants or combustible storage near **windows** can be ignited from embers and generate heat that can break windows and/or melt combustible frames.

BALCONIES and DECKS

Embers can collect in or on combustible surfaces or the undersides of decks, lanai, and balconies, ignite the material and enter the home through walls or windows. Post-and-pier homes, common throughout Hawai'i, are especially vulnerable since most of the underside of the house is exposed.

To harden your home even further, consider protecting your home with a residential fire sprinkler system. In addition to extinguishing a fire started by an ember that enters your home, it also protects you and your family year-round from any fire that may start inside your home.

Creating a Safe Home

Roof: Your roof is the most vulnerable part of your home because it can easily catch fire from wind-blown embers. Homes with wood-shake or shingle roofs are at high risk of being destroyed during a wildland fire.

Build your roof or re-roof with fire-resistant materials such as composition, metal shingle (as seen in picture) or tile. Block any spaces between roof decking and covering to prevent ember intrusion. Clear pine needles, leaves and other debris from your roof and gutters.

Cut any tree branches within ten feet of your roof.

Inside: Always keep working fire extinguishers available. Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, in each bedroom, and in the hallway outside sleeping areas. Test alarms monthly and replace the batteries at least once a year.

Deck/Patio Cover: Use heavy timber or non-combustible construction material for decks. Enclose the underside of balconies and decks with fire-resistant materials to prevent embers from blowing underneath.

Keep your deck clear of combustible items, such as baskets, dried flower arrangements and other debris. The decking surface must be ignition resistant if the deck is within 10 feet of the home.

Non-Combustible Fencing: Make sure to use non-combustible fencing to protect your home during a wildland fire.

Home Site and Yard: Ensure you have at least a 100-foot radius of defensible space (cleared vegetation) around your home. Note that even more clearance may be needed for homes in severe hazard areas. This means looking past what you own to determine the impact a common slope or neighbors' yard will have on your property during a wildland fire.

Cut dry weeds and grass before noon when temperatures are cooler to reduce the chance of sparking a fire.

Landscape with fire-resistant plants that have a high moisture content and are low-growing.

Keep woodpiles, propane tanks and combustible materials away from your home and other structures such as garages, barns and sheds.

Ensure that trees are far away from power lines.

Driveways and Access Roads: Driveways should be designed to allow fire and emergency vehicles and equipment to reach your house.

Access roads should have a minimum 10-foot clearance on either side of the traveled section of the roadway and should allow for two-way traffic.

Ensure that all gates open inward and are wide enough to accommodate emergency equipment.

Trim trees and shrubs overhanging the road to a minimum of 15 feet to allow emergency vehicles to pass.

Home in the WUI

Chimney: Cover your chimney and stovepipe outlets with a non-combustible screen of 1/4-inch wire mesh or smaller to prevent embers from escaping the chimney and starting a fire outside. Make sure that your chimney is at least 10 feet away from any tree branches.

Vents: Vents on homes are particularly vulnerable to flying embers. All vent openings should be covered with 1/8-inch or smaller metal mesh. Do not use fiberglass or plastic mesh because they can melt and burn. Attic vents in eaves or cornices should be baffled or otherwise protected to prevent ember intrusion (mesh is not enough).

Address: Make sure your address is clearly visible from the road.

Walls: Wood products, such as boards, panels or shingles, are common siding materials. However, they are combustible and not good choices for fire-prone areas.

Build or remodel with fire-resistant building materials, such as plaster, cement, masonry or stucco. Be sure to extend materials from foundation to roof.

Non-Combustible Enclosed Eaves: Box in eaves with non-combustible materials to prevent accumulation of embers.

Rain gutters: Screen or enclose rain gutters to prevent accumulation of plant debris.

Water Supply: Have multiple garden hoses that are long enough to reach any area of your home and other structures on your property.

If you have a pool or well, consider a pump.

Garage: Have a fire extinguisher and tools such as a shovel, rake, bucket and hoe available for fire emergencies.

Install a solid door with self-closing hinges between living areas and the garage. Install weather stripping around and under door to prevent ember intrusion.

Store all combustibles and flammable liquids away from ignition sources.

Windows: Heat from a wildland fire can cause windows to break even before the home ignites. This allows burning embers to enter and start internal fires. Single-paned and large windows are particularly vulnerable.

Install dual-paned windows with the exterior pane of tempered glass to reduce the chance of breakage in a fire.

Limit the size and number of windows in your home that face large areas of vegetation.

READY, SET, GO!

Create Your Own Action Guide

Now that you've done everything you can to protect your house, it's time to prepare your family. Your **Wildland Fire Action Guide** must be prepared with all members of your household well in advance of a fire. Use these checklists to help you gain a situational awareness of the threat and to prepare your Wildland Fire Action Guide. For more information on preparing your home and property before a wildfire threat, review the preparedness checklist on the NFPA's Firewise Communities USA website at firewise.org.

Ready - Preparing for the Fire Threat



TAKE ACTION FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

- Review your area's Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) or attend a community meeting when HWMO updates it or creates a new one.
- Coordinate with a local Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) if your area has one.
- Get to know your neighbors. If there are any elderly or residents with disabilities, or others with limited mobility, plan with them on how you can best assist them in the event of a wildland fire.

- Create a Family Disaster Plan that includes meeting locations and communication plans and rehearse it regularly. Include in your plan the evacuation of pets and large animals such as horses.
- Have fire extinguishers on hand and train your family how to use them.
- Ensure that your family knows where your gas, electric and water main shut-off controls are and how to use them.
- Plan several different evacuation routes.
- Designate an emergency meeting location outside the fire hazard area.
- Assemble an emergency supply kit as recommended by the American Red Cross (www.redcross.org).
- Appoint an out-of-area friend or relative as a point of contact so you can communicate with family members who have relocated.
- Maintain a list of emergency contact numbers posted near your phone and in your emergency supply kit.
- Keep an extra emergency supply kit in your car in case you can't get to your home because of fire.
- Have a portable radio or scanner so you can stay updated on the fire.
- Have a clear list and easy access location for necessary medications, glasses and other health aids.

Set - Situational Awareness

When a Fire Starts

- Evacuate if you are not feeling safe! Do not wait for evacuation orders. Get out early - you can always return home when it is safe. This protects you, decreases traffic, and allows firefighters to focus on fire suppression. See more under the “Go” section.
- Alert family 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 emergency supply kit on hand that includes all necessary items, such as a battery powered radio, spare batteries, emergency contact numbers, and ample drinking water.
- Stay tuned to your TV or local radio stations for updates, or check the fire department’s website.
- Remain close to your house, drink plenty of water and keep an eye on your family and pets until you are ready to leave.

IF YOU ARE TRAPPED: SURVIVAL TIPS

- If you are trapped and cannot evacuate, call 9-1-1.
- Shelter away from outside walls. Bring garden hoses inside house so embers don’t destroy them.
- Patrol inside your home for spot fires and extinguish them.
- Wear long sleeves and long pants 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).
- 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 entire property and extinguish any fires or embers.

OUTSIDE CHECKLIST

- Gather up combustible items from the exterior of the house and bring them inside (e.g., patio furniture, children’s toys, door mats, etc.) or place them in your pool.
- Turn off propane tanks.
- Don’t leave sprinklers on or water running - they can waste critical water pressure.
- Leave exterior lights on.
- Back your car into the driveway. Shut doors and roll up windows.
- Load your emergency supply kit into your vehicle.
- Patrol your property and extinguish all small fires until you leave.
- Seal attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or commercial seals if time permits.

INSIDE CHECKLIST

- Shut all windows and doors, leaving them unlocked.
- Remove combustible window shades and curtains and close metal shutters.
- Remove lightweight curtains.
- Move combustible furniture to the center of the room, away from windows and doors.
- Shut off gas at the meter. Turn off pilot lights.
- Leave your lights on so firefighters can see your house under smoky conditions.
- Shut off the air conditioning.



Go - Leave Early

By leaving early, you give your family 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.

WHEN TO LEAVE

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 wildland fire, authorities may not have time to knock on every door. If you are advised to leave, don't hesitate!

WHERE TO GO

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.). Your local Community Wildfire Protection Plan will also have locations listed.

HOW TO GET THERE

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

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

EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

The American Red Cross recommends every family 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 the American Red Cross Web site at 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.



READY, SET, GO!

For Large Landowners &
Land Managers



Ready

PREPARE YOUR FAMILY, EMPLOYEES, AND VISITORS

- Go through the previous guidelines (pgs. 12-14) with your family in addition to this section.
- Have at least two exits for your primary facility and primary residence for your evacuation plan.
- If you have a cell phone, pre-program it with multiple escape routes.
- 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 a back-up plan for feeding livestock if grazing land is destroyed by fire.

KNOW YOUR AREA'S CONDITIONS

- Track the weather daily. Take note of changing conditions.
- If the weather is too dry: close the area, avoid risky equipment operations, or driving over dry vegetation. Fires can start by simply idling your car over grass. Make sure all vehicles' catalytic converters are in working order.

PREPARE YOUR PROPERTY

- Create and maintain firebreaks (vegetation removed down to bare, mineral soil) each year prior to fire season around pastures and structures. This will allow access for suppression. The width of the firebreaks should be at least 3x the fuel height.
- Reduce vegetation and remove combustible material around all structures.
- When selecting for understory vegetation (below trees), choose those that are less fire-prone and don't dry out quickly, and those that don't create ladder fuels.
- Prioritize assets by assessing the risk and value of each and the effort it would take to protect them.
- Maintain your equipment (power tools, mowers, catalytic converters, etc.) Make sure working spark arrestors are installed and maintained on equipment.
- 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.
- Create a fire pre-plan for your property that includes insights from your fire department and wildland fire experts. Discuss your plan and property specifics with local firefighters ahead of time. (See pre-plan insert on next page).

For Large Landowners & Land Managers

Set

YOUR FAMILY, EMPLOYEES, AND VISITORS

- Follow guidelines from page 13.
- Alert family, ranch hands, field workers, or anyone else who is on your property.
- Make sure you have a contact list or meeting location coordinated ahead of time to ensure everyone's safety.

YOUR ANIMALS

- Hook up your stock trailer and load your animals.
- Unlock and open gates so livestock can escape flames and firefighters can gain access.
- Close all barn doors so horses and livestock will not go into a burning building.

YOUR PROPERTY

- Follow guidelines from page 13.
- Move equipment into a safe zone that is clear of combustible fuels.
- Close all doors, windows, and turn on exterior/interior lights in barns and other structures.
- Shut off gas supply and propane tanks.

CATCH THE FIRE BEFORE IT BURNS OUT OF CONTROL

Have these suppression tools & methods available on site:

- Fire extinguisher
- Phone on site
- Water
- Keys to the dozer
- Fire tools

Go

- Follow guidelines from page 14.
- Ensure all people have safely evacuated.
- Stay in communication with fire operations. Ask questions, offer assistance, and give permission. Your invaluable knowledge of the area will prove useful for firefighters who are there to help protect your land and resources. Fire crews can then run an operation that meets your needs as well as theirs.

PRE-PLAN: ENSURE FIREFIGHTERS HAVE ACCESS

- Make sure address posts are clearly visible and marked in contrasting colors.
- Keep copies of gate keys and a written list of combinations in a known location.
- Make sure your property is properly mapped out and that your county fire department has a copy of the map.
- Maintain roads far in advance of fire season. Make sure there is enough room for fire trucks to drive through and that large turn-outs for emergency vehicles are available. Hazards to look out for include: overhanging trees, low power lines, bridges with weight restrictions, boggy areas, and rural residence internal fencing.
- Establish "safety zones" (large areas free of vegetation and other hazardous conditions for firefighters to retreat to).
- Maximize water source access and availability (hydrants, ditches, reservoirs, water tanks, etc.). Ensure pumps and hoses are available and that the size and type of outlets are standard fittings.
- If you would like to offer your equipment (water, tank, tractor) for firefighting, make arrangements and contacts prior to use for proper tracking and reimbursement.

Post in a location where **every** member of your family can see it, such as on the fridge or front door.

OUR FAMILY'S WILDLAND FIRE ACTION GUIDE

Well before fire danger is **HIGH**, prepare your family and residence for potential wildfires. Monitor your local media for the latest information on any incident, and make certain your mobile phones have "In Case of Emergency" (ICE) information loaded.

Our family members will call this out-of-area/state friend or relative to report that we are safe:

Name: _____ Phone Number(s): _____

Pre-program this into cell phones. Keep it current. Make sure the person agrees to be available/responsive.

If separated and unable to access our home or neighborhood, our family will meet at this safe location:

Primary: _____

Secondary: _____

If our children are in school during an emergency, they will be evacuated to this/these locations:

School 1: _____

Child(ren): _____ School Contact Info: _____

School's Evacuation Protocol: _____

School 2: _____

Child(ren): _____ School Contact Info: _____

School's Evacuation Protocol: _____

Our emergency go-bag is located: _____

Essential items to grab before leaving (medication, glasses, etc.): _____

We will do this with our pets: _____

Our pet emergency go-kit (food, water, bowl, leash, crate, etc.) is located: _____

Neighbors/others in our area we have agreed to help or check on during an emergency or evacuation:

Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____

How we have agreed to assist and/or make sure they are ok: _____

Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____

How we have agreed to assist and/or make sure they are ok: _____

LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENT INFORMATION NUMBERS

(CIRCLE THE APPROPRIATE CONTACT)

Hawai'i County Fire Dept. Honolulu Fire Dept.
(808) 932-2911 (808) 723-7161

Maui Fire Dept.
(808) 876-4690

Kaua'i Fire Dept.
(808) 241-4982



SAFETY TIP

Remember to **PRACTICE** your evacuation plan each year with your family, and keep it up to date!

EMERGENCY PLAN NOTES

Use the space below to add any additional information to your family's evacuation plan.

OFF-ISLAND PLANS DURING FIRE SEASON? PLAN AHEAD!

If you are a seasonal resident or property owner, or if you know you will be away, it is critical that you take personal responsibility for your property and the safety of those who may occupy it during your absence. Unmitigated hazards on your property can significantly affect an entire neighborhood, especially adjacent homes and yards. Remember, if an ember lands and ignites a fire on your property, that fire can easily spread and threaten additional lives and homes within the community, whether you are physically present or not. It is up to you to ensure your home, yard, and property are READY at all times.

ESSENTIAL PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS FOR PART-TIME AND TRAVELING RESIDENTS:

1. Ensure your vegetation and structures will be managed and maintained to withstand embers and mitigate wildfire ignition and spread while you are away.

Keeping your yard lean (via strategic, Firewise planting methods and trimmed grasses and trees), clean (regularly maintained, no debris or leaf piles), and green (meaning watered and alive, not dry or dead) applies all year long. What is your property and vegetation maintenance plan? How will you know if your plan is successfully occurring?

2. Create a wildfire information packet for any seasonal or temporary guests who will be staying at your property, familiarizing yourself with all potential evacuation routes and how they may have changed over the year.

Introduce your guests to neighbors that may need their help evacuating. Who are those neighbors, in which houses do they live, and what are their contact numbers? Where can guests find your emergency supplies box or evacuation go-bag?

3. Be a good neighbor. Be active in your community, even if you only consider yourself a part-time or seasonal resident.

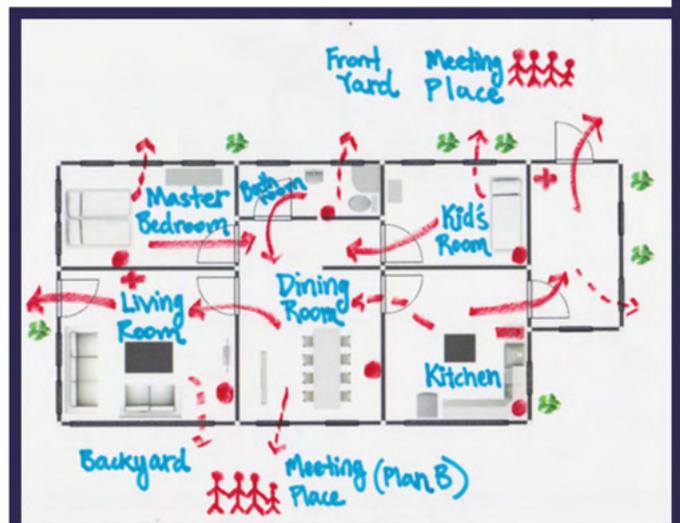
Get to know your neighbors and provide your contact information to them, so that you can work together to find solutions to unexpected risks or hazards within the community, particularly any stemming from your property or that may endanger your property while you are away.

Post in a location where **every** member of your family can see it, such as on the fridge or next to a phone.

OUR FAMILY'S HOME EVACUATION PLAN

Draw a floor plan or map of your home with the space provided below:

- Show all doors and windows.
- Mark two ways out of each room with arrows (1st choice: solid and 2nd choice: dotted).
- Mark all smoke alarms in the house with a ●
Mark all fire extinguishers with a ■
- Mark your emergency kit with a +
Keep kits close to your 2 main exits.
- Pick and mark a main meeting place (and a backup alternative) outside the house where everyone can meet, away from any hazards.
- Remember to practice your plan at least twice a year.





READY, SET, GO!

Residential Safety Checklist Tips To Improve Family and Property Survival During A Wildland Fire



HOME

1. Does your home have a metal, composition, or tile (or other non combustible) roof with capped ends and covered fascia?
2. Are the rain gutters and roof free of leaves, needles and branches?
3. Are all vent openings screened with 1/8 inch (or smaller) mesh metal screen?
4. Are approved spark arrestors on chimneys?
5. Does the house have non-combustible siding material?
6. Are the eaves "boxed in" and the decks, lanai, and/or pier-and-posts enclosed?
7. Are the windows made of at least double-paned or tempered glass?
8. Are the decks, porches, lanai, and other similar areas made of non-combustible material and free of easily combustible material (e.g. plastic furniture)?
9. Is all firewood at least 30 feet from the house?

YES	NO
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

HOME IGNITION ZONE (HIZ)

1. Is dead vegetation cleared 100 feet from the house? (Consider adding distance due to slope of property.)
2. Is there separation between shrubs?
3. Are ladder fuels removed?
4. Is there a lean, clean, and green area extending at least 30 feet from the house?
5. Is there a non-combustible area within five feet of the house?
6. Is there separation between trees/tree clusters?

YES	NO
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

EMERGENCY ACCESS

1. Is the home address visible from the street?
2. Is the home address made of fire-resistant materials?
3. Are street signs present at every intersection leading to the house?
4. Are street signs made of fire-resistant materials?
5. Is combustible vegetation within 10 feet of the driveway cleared and are overhanging obstructions removed?
6. If a long driveway is present, does it have a suitable turnaround area?

YES	NO
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



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Visit Ready, Set, Go!