

In Wyoming, wildfires are becoming more frequent and more severe, threatening our open rangelands, forests, and the communities that rely on them.

While some fires are driven by natural conditions like lightning and drought, many begin with everyday actions we can prevent. By understanding local risks and practicing simple, responsible habits, each of us can help protect Wyoming's wideopen spaces, wildlife habitat, and the people who call this state home.

### 1. Home Preparation

Your home is a major investment—protect it by preparing for the unexpected.

- Compile a list of emergency contacts (family, neighbors, insurance agents).
- Create a family evacuation plan and establish a communication strategy.
- Assemble an emergency kit with crucial documents (birth certificates, passports, insurance papers).
- Know how to open your garage door manually during power outages.
- Document your belongings, and ensure your insurance covers what you need.

### 2. Exterior Home Upgrades

Design your outdoor space with fire safety in mind- it's not just landscaping; it's life-saving. Fortify your home against fire risks with these measures:

- Remove debris, such as leaves and pine needles, from your roof and gutters.
- Replace wooden roofs with Class A fire-resistant rated covers.
- Install multipaned, tempered glass windows.
- Upgrade vents with ember-resistant designs and metal wire mesh (1/8-inch). Regularly clean vent screens and ensure dryer vents have louvers or flaps.
- Create defensible space: clear all vegetation within 5 feet of your home and replace it with hardscape materials (gravel, concrete, river rocks).
- Replace combustible fencing within 5 feet of your home.



- Opt for low-growing, fire-resistant plants like yucca, thyme, evening primrose, and lavender.

- Do not store anything combustible such as firewood, potted plants, outdoor furniture, trash cans, pet houses, law tools, within 5 ft of your home.

### 3. Home Evacuation Steps

Stay informed and act quickly when wildfires approach:

- Monitor official websites, social media, and local news for evacuation orders.
- Share your evacuation plan with all family members. Establish a meeting location

and exchange contact information.

### 4. Insurance Check-Up

Protect yourself financially by ensuring your insurance is wildfire-ready:

- Update your policy after remodels or home improvements.
- Verify coverage for:
  - o Extended replacement costs
  - o Building code or energy ordinance upgrades
  - o Annual inflation adjustments
  - o Additional living expenses

Wildfires can be unpredictable, but preparation is key to safety. Take action today—

you can make a difference. Because when it comes to wildfires, Smokey the Bear was right all along: Only you can prevent—and prepare for—forest fires.

Stay safe and wildfire-ready!

Other resources to view regarding fires can be found at :

—[www.ibhs.org](http://www.ibhs.org)

—<https://content.naic.org/consumer/home-owners-insurance.htm>

—<https://www.nfpa.org/education-and-research/home-fire-safety>

—[http://www.rmiia.org/catastrophes\\_and\\_statistics/Wildfire.asp](http://www.rmiia.org/catastrophes_and_statistics/Wildfire.asp)

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