

Wildfires



the 3Ps of Wildfire Preparation

A growing number of people are choosing to live in woodland settings, rural areas or remote mountain sites. As residents enjoy the natural beauty of these environments, they may also face the danger of wildfires.

Wildfires can spread with astonishing speed, quickly engulfing brush and trees and threatening lives and property. In the United States, an average of five million acres burn every year, causing millions of dollars in damage.

To ensure your safety and the safety of your family and property, be sure to follow the Three Ps of Preparation:

People (and Pets):

- **Create an evacuation plan.** Map the safest areas and routes to evacuate your house and neighborhood. Identify multiple emergency transit routes, in all directions, and a primary and secondary meeting location outside of your neighborhood and town. Know where your nearest evacuation shelters are located.
- **Identify an out-of-area contact.** Designate a friend or family member in another state who can act as a communication traffic manager. Ensure that your contact list (children's schools, doctor's offices, employer, etc.) is updated and that your out-of-area contact has those numbers.
- **Educate your family.** Make sure that everyone in your family understands how to safely evacuate or how to get to a safe place within your home. Consider having at least one member of the family learn basic first aid training.
- **Protect your pets.** Know your pets' favorite hiding places so you can find them in a hurry. Keep in mind that many shelters do not take pets so have a contingency plan for where they can stay.
- **Prepare an evacuation emergency kit.** Ensure the kit is easily transportable.



Property:

- **Address.** Make sure your address number is at least four inches tall against a contrasting background and that it is visible for at least 150 feet in all directions.
- **Clear the yard.** Remove flammable vegetation from a 15-foot area around your home and chimney, prune tree branches to 10 feet above ground and regularly mow your lawn, removing debris.
- **Smoke alarms and fire extinguishers.** Install smoke alarms in every room and test them monthly. Install a fully charged fire extinguisher on each floor of the house.
- **Hose and ladder.** Keep a garden hose that is long enough to reach all areas of the house and a ladder that is tall enough to reach your roof nearby to wet the structure to prevent flying embers from igniting and to check for "hot spots."



Possessions:

- **Protect documentation.** Make copies of all important documents (passport, driver's license, birth certificate, financial documentation, vehicle registration, property deeds and will, etc.) and keep copies with your out-of-area contact.
- **Create a home inventory.** Create an organized photo catalog of your belongings on your smartphone with the easy-to-use Liberty Mutual Home Gallery™ app.



For more information about preparing for a wildfire, please visit www.libertymutual.com/prepare.