



Wildfire Safety

Many wildfires begin unnoticed and spread very quickly in grassy or wooded areas. Wildfires can create a dense smoke that fills the area for miles surrounding the actual fire. Wildfires can be caused by lightning or volcano eruptions, but 80% are caused by arsonists or by people who are careless.

Before a Wildfire:

- Make sure fire vehicles can get to your home. Clearly mark all driveway entrances and make sure your house number is clearly visible from the street.
- Test your fire alarms/smoke detectors once a month. Replace batteries as necessary.
- Practice your Family Emergency Communications Plan.
- Plan more than one escape route from your house and pick a meeting place so you know everyone has gotten out of the house and is safe.
- Teach children about fire safety and keep matches and other fires starters out of their reach.
- Get rid of leaves, twigs and tree limbs that are laying around your property.
- Mow your lawn regularly.
- Remove any vines that are growing on the outside of your house.
- Remove any tree branches or shrubs that are within 15 ft. of a chimney or stovepipe outlet.
- Purchase a garden hose that is long enough to reach any area of your property or any building on your property.
- Review your homeowner's insurance and update a list of your home's contents.
- Pay attention to burn notices.

When a Wildfire Threatens:

- Listen to the radio or television for updates and directions from local, state, and federal officials.
- Turn on a light in each room of your home. The light will make it easier to see through heavy smoke.
- Turn off propane tanks.
- Wet or remove any shrubs within 15 ft. of your house.
- If you are advised to evacuate, do so immediately. Lock all doors and windows. Tell someone else where you are going.

After a Wildfire:

- Do not return to your home until officials tell you it is safe.

Resources

- Visit riema.ri.gov/preparedness/threats&hazards/wildfires to view the current fire weather forecast.
- Know your local emergency officials' contact information by visiting riema.ri.gov/response/local
- Visit riema.ri.gov/preparedness/evacuation to learn your local evacuation routes.
- Visit riema.ri.gov/preparedness/ to download a Family Emergency Communications Plan.