

Disaster and Emergency Readiness Training for Wildfires and Home Fires

Supplementary Materials and Ideas for Trainers

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[Note: The contents herein are beta (draft) versions and have been developed exclusively for educational purposes.]

Introduction

This module focuses on fire safety by providing communities with the knowledge and tools they need to prevent fires and to be better prepared if they do happen. It covers fire preparedness and prevention with a special emphasis on non-traditional learners, people with disabilities, elderly persons, and historically under-served communities like the homeless but also speakers of other languages than English. Like others in this series, it makes use of the Ready, Set, Go program developed by CAL FIRE that direct residents to follow the important steps to Get a Kit, Make a Plan, and Stay Informed.

However, this module looks at newer ideas that can be used to meet long existing and dire needs, or because some information presented by local authorities is only locally applicable. Examples include outreach strategies to homeless populations and exporting American fire safety standards in hospitals and care facilities to other countries.

Having a fire escape plan in place and practicing it is essential to increase your chances of surviving a fire, but so is learning basic fire safety tips. Therefore, information is also presented on the various sources of fires, whether in the home or outside.

Some resources are for kids, some for adults, some for parents, and some are for teachers. While developing the module, it became obvious that efforts have been taken to help communities improve their effectiveness in communicating fire safety principles and specifics to many people groups with the goal of creating more resilient communities. This module incorporates those efforts, too, so community organizations, agencies, and first responders are also among target audiences.

After delivering this module, facilitators could reasonably expect their target audiences to be able to make their homes and families safer from fire. This would be done in a number of ways described in the behavioral changes section, but it centers on being able to remember some simple steps to follow to a) prevent fires in the home and outside, and b) to know how to get out and get to safety if a fire threatens them or their families. This would all require effective communication to take place in an emergency-- so where possible, the module includes materials in other languages and alternative communication formats.

Opener: Think-Pair-Share

[Think-pair-share-expand is a collaborative learning strategy where learners work together to solve a problem or add to solutions. This strategy requires learners to (1) think individually about a topic the instructor wants to raise; and (2) share ideas with a single colleague, and then the group.]

Provided within is an attempt to synthesize the various and, for this subject, often repeated, information into a succinct and scalable model for community preparedness. This information is intended to be easily deployable, ready for use by trainers in sessions for people who work in the realm of fire safety, response, or recovery and to aid them in disseminating necessary and useful information on those topics to their wider communities. Topics include home fires and their sources, wildfires, outreach to different people groups to identify fire risks and service gaps, fire prevention, escape planning, and recovery.

When thinking about what it requires to be prepared, we must also realize that fire is unpredictable. Some of these resources offer solutions on controlling a fire if it has not yet gotten out of control. All of us need to try to do what we can to prevent unsafe fires, but most importantly, we need to get away from the danger. Too much is at stake if we do not.

Knowing this, we all need to be prepared to get to safety and help others do the same in an emergency. We must also realize that we cannot depend on always being able to do the things we are used to doing. At any time in the future, we may become disabled and it would be unwise to be caught in an emergency unprepared because of this. Therefore, this module stresses the importance of being prepared in all situations, because life can change in an instant and we need to be as ready as we can.

We can all take steps today to be better prepared for or prevent a fire-related emergency. Being aware of the risks that can lead to fires and the many possible sources of fires and practicing an escape plan by yourself or in a group can greatly increase your chances of surviving a dangerous fire. On the back of this page, please make a list of the specific fire risks you think you and the immediate members of your family currently face.

Annotated Curated Videos

Note: Closed Captions can be turned on for any YouTube video by clicking on the “CC” button.

- **Ready, Set, Go:** A CAL FIRE video about creating a defensible space around your home, being prepared for a wildfire, and evacuating during a wildfire. We have included various other written materials from CAL FIRE on these topics throughout this module.
 - (<https://www.readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/ready-set-go/>)
- **How to Prepare for Wildfire Evacuations:** A local news channel interviews an owner of an emergency supplies store and provides tips for wildfire preparedness including materials for an emergency preparedness kit and considerations for pets.
 - (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ru9jNO-qxA>)
- **How to Prepare for and Survive a Wildfire:** This shows you how to create defensible space around the house-- which certainly doesn't look cheap. So you can't afford the modifications or the fire is still coming for your home? This video also gives you emergency preparedness tips like what to pack, when to evacuate, and even how to help your family avoid or survive an encroaching blaze on the road.
 - (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EakFaaunJpl>)
- **Fire Safety Videos for People with Disabilities:** Narrated by and starring young independent college students with disabilities, these videos introduce the fire safety considerations inherent to each unique disability. They follow the same basic template of cooking fire safety, fire safety equipment, and the exit plan in case of fire.
 - (<https://www.mingerfoundation.org/projects/fire-safety-info/videos/>)
- **Danger of Turkey Fryers:** You may have heard the risks described in insurance commercials around Thanksgiving, but this actually shows you just how much of a fire hazard these are and gives the strongest evidence to never use one.
 - (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kjUynq0HXdQ>)
- **Grilling Fire Safety (Video 1, Video 2):** These videos give important safety considerations for grilling to reduce the risk of fire.
 - **(Video 1:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v2k6rNOCrz4>)
 - **(Video 2:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=enxk1Fez46E>)

- **Smoke Alarm Sound:** Red Cross wants you to teach your kids what a smoke alarm sounds like, so if you don't have one, you can hear it at this link.
 - (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=czyGmRXJ184>)
- **Fire Safety for Older Adults (Infographic Video):** This one-minute video from FEMA reminds older adults of the basic steps they should take to prevent and escape from fires in the home. It is a good starting point when talking to seniors that can be added to in group discussions since it touches lightly on many topics.
 - (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3xv8bdKhBno>)
- **Bushfire Bunkers Promise Safety but Bring Warnings:** Australia's current wildfires prompt some to take on risky solutions like constructing bunkers to live in through a wildfire, but local agencies say they become death traps in an actual wildfire. We recommend heeding the authorities' advice and just leaving to ensure your safety.
 - (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DBe9XumhYmk>)
- **3 Easy Steps To Prepare For An Emergency:** This simple infographic video from Red Cross outlines simple steps to follow to be prepared for a disaster, including fire. They are: 1) Get a kit; 2) make a plan; and 3) be informed. It provides good general information to have especially regarding what to put in your kit, how to use and practice your plan, and what additional skills you should make sure you know, like first aid and CPR.
 - (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aGS1CpNsMXA>)
- **Safety Videos in American Sign Language:** These videos provide sign language users with essential tips for different fire safety situations. They are also captioned and can thus be used for practicing or learning sign language.
 - (<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Specific-groups-at-risk/People-with-disabilities/Videos-in-American-Sign-Language>)

Annotated Guides and Publications

- **Ready, Set, Go Brochure:** This guide from San Diego County walks homeowners through in-depth actions to take to defend their homes during wildfire and keep their families safe. In addition to Ready, Set, Go checklists from CAL FIRE that are linked in the pamphlet section

below, it also has a handy checklist for returning home after a wildfire and an action guide to help your family learn more about your own home.

- (https://www.readysandiego.org/content/dam/oesready/en/Resources/wildfire_preparedness_guide.pdf)
- **[Picking up the Pieces After a Fire:](#)** This guide from the Red Cross walks readers through what to do after a fire in the home. It includes making sure it is safe to re-enter the home, recovering emotionally and helping pets, checking your home's utilities, cleaning up, making repairs, recovering financially, and considerations for rebuilding.
 - (https://www.redcross.org/content/dam/redcross/atg/PDF_s/Preparedness___Disaster_Recovery/General_Preparedness___Recovery/Home/picking-up-the-pieces-after-a-fire.pdf)
- **[Remembering When: A Fire and Fall Prevention Program for Older Adults:](#)** This resource from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) outlines easy to remember keys to safety for seniors and has useful strategies for facilitators including safety checklists, interactive trivia, and customized training. Trivia is divided up between 'older older adults' & 'younger older adults.' It also integrates fall prevention since seniors are more at risk of death during fires and more so if they fall and cannot get to safety. NFPA also has a number of other resources on their website, including [ideas for lesson plans](#) and [fliers in multiple languages](#).
 - **Guide:** <https://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/education-programs/remembering-when/rwprogrambook.pdf?la=en>
 - **Lesson plans:** <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Teaching-tools/Lesson-plans>
 - **Fliers in Multiple Languages:** [nfpa.org/Public-Education/Teaching-tools/Safety-tip-sheets/Easy-to-read-handouts-in-other-languages](https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Teaching-tools/Safety-tip-sheets/Easy-to-read-handouts-in-other-languages)
- **[Your Role in Fire-Adapted Communities:](#)** This FEMA resource identifies roles for local officials, responders, existing partners, and community members to target wildfire safety and resilience. It also challenges communities to participate in developing a cohesive national fire response policy and rely less on fire suppression.
 - (https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fire_adapted_communities.pdf)
- **[Fire is Everyone's Fight - Community Outreach Materials:](#)** These resources from the U.S. Fire Administration target community educational awareness for fire safety and prevention by helping fire departments integrate core safety messages into media and public outreach campaigns. The website tells them what to say, how to say it, and who to say it to, ensuring more effective communication to

residents, as well as provides a number of free downloadable materials.

- (<https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/>)
- **[Effective Communications for People with Disabilities Before, During, and After Emergencies:](#)** This report from the National Council on Disability explains how current disaster resources available to the public can be improved to more effectively communicate necessary information to people with a range of disabilities. Though lengthy, it would show Emergency Operations Center staff how to include people with disabilities in designing emergency planning efforts.
 - (<https://ncd.gov/publications/2014/05272014>)

Downloadable and Adaptable Online Materials (Not in PDF)

- **[CAL FIRE Red Flag Warnings & Fire Weather Watches:](#)** This link shows notifications that the National Weather Service issues to Fire Departments warning of high wildfire risk weather conditions. The site also has basic tips to follow in various settings from camping to creating defensible space that helps residents prevent wildfires from starting and spreading.
 - (<https://www.fire.ca.gov/programs/communications/red-flag-warnings-fire-weather-watches/>)
- **[NFPA Emergency Evacuation Planning Guide:](#)** This evacuation planning guide and accompanying checklist is customized for people with disabilities. It can help those living in apartments to also see if their space meets the legal requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Both are provided in Word format so can be adapted.
 - (<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Specific-groups-at-risk/People-with-disabilities>)
- The NFPA has several [adaptable articles](#) that facilitators, organizations and agencies can use to get the word out to their news outlets informing them of upcoming fire safety trainings, the current state of fire preparedness, success stories and even fire safety horror stories in their community.
 - (<https://www.nfpa.org/News-and-Research/Publications-and-media/Blogs-Landing-Page/NFPA-Today>)

- **[Social media toolkit: Fire safety for older adults and children:](#)** These toolkits from FEMA include cards with simple reminders and tips to keep kids and older adults safe from fires. They can be easily shared to Facebook or Twitter for social media campaigns and would be especially useful for emergency services, disaster preparedness and response organizations, and public agencies.
 - (https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/media/social_toolkits/toolkit_caregivers.html)
- **[7 Ways To Prepare For A Home Fire:](#)** The American Red Cross helps the average person who may be unprepared prioritize and apply as needed the pertinent information for their situation. The site even includes a section titled, “If you do nothing else” to direct us to the bare minimum level of action we all can and should take to reduce the risk of fire and to be prepared if one happens.
 - (<https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/fire/home-fire-preparedness.html>)

Fillable Forms

- **[Home Fire Escape Plan:](#)** This Red Cross document outlines the basic steps to develop a fire escape plan in case of a fire within the home. It also provides a grid on which to draw the plan. The second page is the same document in Spanish.
 - (https://www.redcross.org/content/dam/redcross/atg/PDF_s/Preparedness___Disaster_Recovery/Disaster_Preparedness/Home_Fire/Home_Fire_Escape_Plan.pdf)
- **[Home Safety Checklist:](#)** This NFPA checklist is part of the fire and fall safety program for older adults. It asks questions to systematically prepare people for home fire safety and is also available in large print, Spanish, and Mandarin.
 - (**English:** <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Education-programs/remembering-when/RWHomeSafetyChecklist.ashx?la=en>)
 - (**Other languages:** <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Teaching-tools/Remembering-When>)
- **[CAL FIRE Homeowners' Checklist:](#)** This short pamphlet gives homeowners a fairly comprehensive checklist in an easy-to-understand format. It is broken down into different areas of the home and surrounding property to help protect everything that would be at risk in the event of a wildfire. It is also a good tool for future

homeowners since the construction design portion keeps wildfire protection in mind.

- (<http://www.readyforwildfire.org/wp-content/uploads/Homeowners-Checklist.pdf>)
- **Personal Emergency Evacuation Planning Checklist:** This NFPA checklist can be filled out by or for people with various disabilities. Copies can be given to people living with them or building managers in multifamily residences to ensure people are aware of the needs of the person on the checklist and that they can assist if needed to ensure that person's safety in an emergency.
 - (<https://fire-marshal.ri.gov/documents/crowdmanagement/DisabilitiesChecklist.pdf>)

Free Pamphlets and Brochures

- **Home Fire Escape Drills:** This visual guide shows how to develop a fire escape plan and practice fire drills at home with your family. It includes simple steps to follow from start to finish in a format that is easy to read and understand.
 - (<https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Community-tool-kits/Escape-planning/englisheasyreadplanningpracticing.ashx>)
- **CAL FIRE “Ready” – Defensible Space:** This brochure has special considerations for houses and gardens to increase the chances of saving homes during a wildfire. It includes diagrams showing best practices for tree and shrub planting to decrease the likelihood of a fire reaching the home.
 - (https://www.fire.ca.gov/media/8645/calfire_ready_brochure_lino.pdf)
- **CAL FIRE “Set” – Wildfire Preparedness:** This brochure helps families prepare an evacuation plan, communication plan, and emergency preparedness kit in case of evacuation due to a wildfire.
 - (https://www.fire.ca.gov/media/8647/calfire_set_brochure_lino.pdf)
- **CAL FIRE “Go” – Wildfire Evacuation:** This brochure provides families with a checklist for evacuation due to a wildfire, including diagrams, and what to do if they become trapped and cannot evacuate.
 - (https://www.fire.ca.gov/media/8649/calfire_ready_brochure_lino.pdf)

- **[Returning Home After a Wildfire](#)**: This tri-fold brochure includes checklists on how and where look for fire damage on a property and in a house when returning home after evacuation due to a wildfire.
 - (https://www.readyforwildfire.org/wp-content/uploads/CALFIRE_ReturningHomeAfterAFire_Revised.pdf)
- **[Remembering When – Fire Prevention Cards](#)**: These fire prevention message cards contain eight handy tips for older adults to remember to reduce the risk of fire in their homes. They are also available in Spanish and Mandarin, plus there are fall prevention message cards (also in Spanish and Mandarin)
 - (**English Fire Cards**: <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Teaching-tools/Remembering-When>)
 - (**Other languages and fall prevention cards**: <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Teaching-tools/Remembering-When>)

Possible Sub-topics

- Fire preparedness
- Preparing a go-bag
- Wildfires
- Preventing home fires
 - Safety equipment
 - Cooking
 - Electrical
 - Smoking
- Responding to home fires
- Assisting people with disabilities
- Assisting speakers of other languages
- Response to homeless
- House fire recovery
- Returning home after a forest fire

Possible Class Handouts

- **Emergency Supply List (Available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#))**: This checklist can help a family prepare for natural disasters and/or emergencies before they occur. It includes general items you may

want to include in your emergency kit, as well as additional items to consider.

- **(English:** <https://safetyresourcesblog.files.wordpress.com/2014/08/emergency-supply-list-english.pdf>)
- **(Spanish:** <https://safetyresourcesblog.files.wordpress.com/2014/08/emergency-supply-list-spanish.pdf>)

- **[Before, During and After a Wildfire:](#)** This two-page document outlines in simple bullets what to do before, during and after a wildfire. It would be a great resource to send home with participants of a training so that they can follow up on and learn about the necessary steps at home.
 - (<https://www.fire.ca.gov/media/5414/beforeduringafter.pdf>)

- **[Cooking Fire Safety:](#)** FEMA provides this infographic on preventing cooking fires and what to do if a fire starts in the kitchen. It is a good starting point from which groups can add to regarding precautions to take in the kitchen and how to deal with a home fire.
 - (https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/cooking_fire_safety_flyer.pdf)

- **[Prevent Kitchen Fires:](#)** This one-page document provides the simple tools to prevent and put out kitchen fires, for instance, by covering grease fires with a lid. It is also available in Spanish.
 - **(English:** https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/kitchen_fires_flyer.pdf)
 - **(Spanish:** https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/kitchen_fires_flyer_spanish.pdf)

- **[Disability Safety Tips:](#)** These online tips could easily be printed on one sheet of paper. They highlight home fire safety devices and strategies for persons with disabilities.
 - (<https://ablethrive.com/life-skills/home-safety-tips-people-disabilities>)

- **[Let's Have Fun with Fire Safety:](#)** This children's coloring and activity book from FEMA helps to keep kids safe from fires by teaching them fire safety and how to prepare. It's also available in Spanish.
 - **(English:** https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/lets_have_fun_with_fire_safety.pdf?utm_source=website&utm_medium=pubsapp&utm_content=Let%27s%20Have%20Fun%20With%20Fire%20Safety&utm_campaign=R3D)
 - **(Spanish:** [https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/lets_have_fun_with_fire_safety_spanish.pdf?utm_source=website&utm_medium=pubsapp&utm_content=Let%27s%20Have%20Fun%20With%20Fire%20Safety%20\(Spanish\)&utm_campaign=R3D](https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/lets_have_fun_with_fire_safety_spanish.pdf?utm_source=website&utm_medium=pubsapp&utm_content=Let%27s%20Have%20Fun%20With%20Fire%20Safety%20(Spanish)&utm_campaign=R3D))

- **Fire Escape Talking Points**: NFPA provides this one-page sheet to get people to think about planning early and shows how many people actually prepare for fires in the home. These talking points direct facilitators and presenters when discussing fire safety with media and their target audiences.
 - (https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Community-tool-kits/Escape-planning/talking_points.ashx?la=en)
- **Red Cross Fact Sheets (Heating Fires and Cooking Fires)**: The Red Cross has a couple of fact sheets that emphasize common causes for home fires, the damage they can incur, and quick and easy steps to follow for prevention of these types of fires.
 - **(Heating Fires)**:
https://www.redcross.org/content/dam/redcross/atg/PDF_s/Preparedness___Disaster_Recovery/Disaster_Preparedness/Home_Fire/FireHomeHeatingFactSheet.pdf
 - **(Cooking Fires)**:
https://www.redcross.org/content/dam/redcross/atg/PDF_s/Preparedness___Disaster_Recovery/Disaster_Preparedness/Home_Fire/FireCookingFactSheet.pdf

Suggested Group Activities

For Kids:

- **Fire Safety Materials for Kids**: The Hartford Insurance has a webpage with many links to information, coloring pages, and handouts on home fire safety for children. Resources are visually appealing and simple enough for kids, but with very good examples of hazards and safe behaviors to practice. There is even a certificate of completion. Most materials are also available in Spanish.
 - (<https://www.thehartford.com/about-us/junior-fire-marshal/fire-safety-education-materials>)
- **10 Activities for Teaching Kids About Fire Safety**: This article on Verywellfamily.com provides some tips and activities to get young kids aware of fire risks and get them interested in fire safety. They are easy to design and do with kids and will teach them important skills to be safe from fire in a short time.
 - (<https://www.verywellfamily.com/fun-activity-ideas-for-teaching-fire-safety-616821>)
- **Stop, drop and roll**: Practice this movement
- **Fire Safety Hangman**: Guess letters of a word related to fire safety

- **Fire Safety Pictionary:** Guess what a group member is drawing related to fire safety

Other ideas:

- **Remembering When Program for Older Adults:** We included a few key resources throughout this module, but the Remembering When fire and fall prevention program from the NFPA also has many facilitation and training resources on their website in English, Spanish and Mandarin.
 - (<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Teaching-tools/Remembering-When>)
- **Prepare Your Organization for a Wildfire:** This playbook walks through group discussions and activities to prepare for a wildfire. It includes goals, agendas, discussion topics, examples of videos or resources you might use, and scenario prompts for activities. The full guide is also available in [Spanish](#).
 - (English: https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-03/fema_faith-communities_wildfire-playbook_0.pdf)
 - (Spanish: <https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/read/53706280/prepare>)
- **Fire safety storytelling:** “Oops” or triumphs from your past. Describe what you wish you had that you were missing or that you were glad you had that better prepared you in the moment. *Note: Take extra facilitation precautions to ensure that participants are comfortable sharing their stories.*
- **Scenario Brainstorming:** As a group come up with fire scenarios and match (or come up with) appropriate preparations, responses or recovery steps. Tip: incorporate situations involving persons with disabilities and how to assist or what you would do if you were disabled in an emergency.
- **Peer Support:** Go around and each say one thing in or about their home that poses a current fire-related risk and then have the person next to you offer solutions. Could also do this type of activity for wildfire planning, fire response, and home fire equipment/safety.

- **Desert island:** Make a list of 7 must-haves in a fire emergency. Share, compare, and agree on the list. Could do this in groups and have each present their final list to other groups at the end.

Plausible Participant Behavioral Changes

- People practice wildfire prevention tactics outdoors.
- Residents defend their homes from wildfire and have an escape plan ready.
- Residents prepare evacuation kits to take with them in case of fire.
- Residents know where to place smoke detectors, when to test them and change their batteries, and know how to use a fire extinguisher in the home.
- Residents develop evacuation checklists.
- Residents develop their home fire evacuation plan and practice them twice each year.
- Adults and children can identify common kitchen fire risks and interventions.
- People use or install ground fault circuit interrupters and practice electrical safety tenets.
- People refrain from smoking or at least practice fire-conscious smoking.

Related Android Apps

- **[Sparky's Brain Buster App](https://www.teacherswithapps.com/sparkys-brain-busters/):** Sparky the fire dog quizzes kids on fire safety and integrates other educational categories in a fun-to-use spin the wheel format. Options abound for the whole family to conceivably utilize the app, too. Parents can quiz their kids, kids can quiz their parents, family members can take turns answering questions and keep score, or parents could set goals for their kids to complete certain levels and quiz them later.
 - (<https://www.teacherswithapps.com/sparkys-brain-busters/>)
- **[CAL FIRE Prepare for Wildfire App](#):** Answer questions and get your personal wildfire readiness plan in five minutes based on your

responses. You can also [take the quiz online](#), and [sign up for text alerts](#).

- (App: <https://www.readyforwildfire.org/sidebar-items/ready-for-wildfire-app/>)
- (Online quiz: <https://plan.readyforwildfire.org/survey>)
- (Text alerts: <https://plan.readyforwildfire.org/>)

- **[Avenza Maps](#)**: The US Forest Service started using this app to reduce critical time delays during wildfire response. Public users can download millions of maps for free and rely on them to work even without a network connection since they use the GPS tracking in their mobile phones. Potentially life-saving features of the free version of the app are finding exact geographic coordinates so rescue workers can locate you and creating a geofence to notify you when entering areas that could be unsafe.
 - (<https://www.avenzamaps.com/>)

- **[MyRadar Weather Radar](#)**: This app recently integrated a wildfire layer that sources information from the United States Geological Survey, Inciweb, the Risk Incident Information Management System by the United States Forest Service and others to show existing wildfire boundaries and use current and future weather conditions to forecast fires. Available for both Android and Apple.
 - (<https://myradar.com/>)

- **[45 powerful mobile apps for people with disabilities](#)**: This list provides links to download several useful mobile apps for people with disabilities. While some of the apps appear to no longer work, many of them are still available and would be useful for blind and vision impaired people and people with speech disabilities. For example, Be My Eyes connects blind people with others to guide them via a live chat session. This could possibly be adopted by Fire Departments and help to locate trapped residents in emergencies. Another app is hailed on the site as “the best text to speech app” and would help deaf people communicate with those who don’t know sign language.
 - (<https://www.uksmobility.co.uk/blog/2015/10/45-powerful-mobile-apps-for-those-with-disabilities/>)

Other Relevant Sources

- **[Fire Safety Equipment - Red Cross](https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/fire/fire-safety-equipment.html)**: The American Red Cross provides information on fire safety equipment and where to buy approved safety devices for your residence. It also includes carbon monoxide alarms.
 - (<https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/fire/fire-safety-equipment.html>)
- **[The Best Wildfire Preparedness Supplies and Strategies](https://www.nytimes.com/wirecutter/reviews/tools-to-prepare-for-wildfire/)**: This article from The New York Times Wirecutter reviews supplies that would be good to have in an emergency preparedness kit for fires. It includes links to and prices for suggested supplies and has links to other relevant information such as how to clean your home after a fire. It was updated in September of 2020 to also include information about the COVID-19 pandemic. We have included the full article below in Attachment D.
 - (<https://www.nytimes.com/wirecutter/reviews/tools-to-prepare-for-wildfire/>)
- **[Natural Disasters, Severe Weather and COVID-19](https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/wildfires/index.html)**: This webpage from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has relevant links about preparing for, staying safe during, and staying safe after wildfires. There are also many other links about wildfire health concerns, including how to stay safe during the COVID-19 pandemic, and how wildfire smoke can affect at-risk groups such as those who are pregnant or have asthma. There is a link at the top to view the entire webpage in Spanish.
 - (<https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/wildfires/index.html>)
- **[Fire Safety In Health Care Facilities](https://www.portlandoregon.gov/fire/article/740255)**: The Portland, Oregon Fire Department developed this guide to be deployed in healthcare settings for facility workers to teach themselves fire safety and create fire escape and rescue plans for patients. It helps employees focus on situational awareness to practice their plans with guidance. It is geared towards making sure employees not only know the plan in case of an emergency but can react quickly using the Rescue - Alarm - Confine - Extinguish (RACE) system to save lives.
 - (<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/fire/article/740255>)
- **[NFPA Journal - Burn Treatment, Jan Feb 2020](#)**: Fires used to kill people in hospitals and nursing homes in the US, but thanks to large investments to standardize infrastructure, training and policies, the US is now by far the safest country in this aspect. Unfortunately,

these barriers remain in other countries, even more developed ones. This article points out some possible solutions that can be applied in places where hospital and nursing home fires still pose risks, even where political will and integrity may be lacking from countries' leaders. This is worth a close read by organizations within and outside of governments working in these countries.

- (<https://www.nfpa.org/News-and-Research/Publications-and-media/NFPA-Journal/2020/January-February-2020/Features/Burn-Treatment>)

- **[Fire Department Response to Homeless Encampments:](#)** This blogpost offers first responders' solutions to common challenges they face serving the homeless and it identifies associated fire risks to be aware of and mitigate at encampments.
 - (<https://www.lexipol.com/resources/blog/when-the-call-has-no-address-fire-department-response-to-homeless-encampments/>)
- **[Homeless Outreach & Medical Emergency \(HOME\) Team:](#)** This partnership with the City and County of San Francisco outsources non-fire response calls that can be a large workload for firefighters. By coordinating medical response, outreach, mental health services, and emergency supplies to homeless communities and other vulnerable populations, HOME Team helps ensure firefighters respond primarily to life-threatening emergencies. This may be a good example to emulate elsewhere.
 - (<https://sf-fire.org/homeless-outreach-medical-emergency-home-team>)

Attachment A: Home Fires

In just two minutes, a fire can become life-threatening. In five minutes, a residence can be engulfed in flames.

Learn About Fires

- Fire is **FAST!** In less than 30 seconds a small flame can turn into a major fire. It only takes minutes for thick black smoke to fill a house or for it to be engulfed in flames.
- Fire is **HOT!** Heat is more threatening than flames. Room temperatures in a fire can be 100 degrees at floor level and rise to 600 degrees at eye level. Inhaling this super-hot air will scorch your lungs and melt clothes to your skin.
- Fire is **DARK!** Fire starts bright, but quickly produces black smoke and complete darkness.
- Fire is **DEADLY!** Smoke and toxic gases kill more people than flames do. Fire produces poisonous gases that make you disoriented and drowsy. Asphyxiation is the leading cause of fire deaths, exceeding burns by a three-to-one ratio.

Before a Fire

Create and Practice a Fire Escape Plan

In the event of a fire, remember that every second counts, so you and your family must always be prepared. Escape plans help you get out of your home quickly.

Twice each year, practice your home fire escape plan. Some tips to consider when preparing this plan include:

- Find two ways to get out of each room in the event the primary way is blocked by fire or smoke.
- A secondary route might be a window onto a neighboring roof or a collapsible ladder for escape from upper story windows.
- Make sure that windows are not stuck, screens can be taken out quickly, and that security bars can be properly opened.
- Practice feeling your way out of the house in the dark or with your eyes closed.
- Teach children not to hide from firefighters.

Smoke Alarms

A working smoke alarm significantly increases your chances of surviving a deadly home fire.

- Install both ionization AND photoelectric smoke alarms, OR dual sensor smoke alarms, which contain both ionization and photoelectric smoke sensors.
- Test batteries monthly.
- Replace batteries in battery-powered and hard-wired smoke alarms at least once a year (except non-replaceable 10-year lithium batteries).
- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, including the basement, both inside and outside of sleeping areas.
- Replace the entire smoke alarm unit every 8-10 years or according to manufacturer's instructions.
- Never disable a smoke alarm while cooking – it can be a deadly mistake.

Smoke Alarm Safety for People with Access or Functional Needs

- Audible alarms for visually impaired people should pause with a small window of silence between each successive cycle so that they can listen to instructions or voices of others.
- Smoke alarms with a vibrating pad or flashing light are available for the hearing impaired. Contact your local fire department for information about obtaining a flashing or vibrating smoke alarm.
- Smoke alarms with a strobe light outside the home to catch the attention of neighbors, and emergency call systems for summoning help, are also available.

More Fire Safety Tips

- Make digital copies of valuable documents and records like birth certificates.
- Sleep with your door closed.
- Contact your local fire department for information on training on the proper use and maintenance of fire extinguishers.
- Consider installing an automatic fire sprinkler system in your residence.

During a Fire

- Crawl low under any smoke to your exit - heavy smoke and poisonous gases collect first along the ceiling.
- Before opening a door, feel the doorknob and door. If either is hot, or if there is smoke coming around the door, leave the door closed and use your second way out.
- If you open a door, open it slowly. Be ready to shut it quickly if heavy smoke or fire is present.
- If you can't get to someone needing assistance, leave the home and call 9-1-1 or the fire department. Tell the emergency operator where the person is located.
- If pets are trapped inside your home, tell firefighters right away.

- If you can't get out, close the door and cover vents and cracks around doors with cloth or tape to keep smoke out. Call 9-1-1 or your fire department. Say where you are and signal for help at the window with a light-colored cloth or a flashlight.
- If your clothes catch fire, stop, drop, and roll – stop immediately, drop to the ground, and cover your face with your hands. Roll over and over or back and forth until the fire is out. If you or someone else cannot stop, drop, and roll, smother the flames with a blanket or towel. Use cool water to treat the burn immediately for 3 to 5 minutes. Cover with a clean, dry cloth. Get medical help right away by calling 9-1-1 or the fire department.

Fire Escape Planning for Older Adults and People with Access or Functional Needs

- Live near an exit. You'll be safest on the ground floor if you live in an apartment building. If you live in a multi-story home, arrange to sleep on the ground floor, and near an exit.
- If you use a walker or wheelchair, check all exits to be sure you get through the doorways.
- Make any necessary accommodations, such as providing exit ramps and widening doorways, to facilitate an emergency escape.
- Speak to your family members, building manager, or neighbors about your fire safety plan and practice it with them.
- Contact your local fire department's non-emergency line and explain your special needs. Ask emergency providers to keep your special needs information on file.
- Keep a phone near your bed and be ready to call 911 or your local emergency number if a fire occurs.

After a Fire

The following checklist serves as a quick reference and guide for you to follow after a fire strikes.

- Contact your local disaster relief service, such as The Red Cross, if you need temporary housing, food and medicines.
- If you are insured, contact your insurance company for detailed instructions on protecting the property, conducting inventory and contacting fire damage restoration companies. If you are not insured, try contacting private organizations for aid and assistance.
- Check with the fire department to make sure your residence is safe to enter. Be watchful of any structural damage caused by the fire.
- The fire department should see that utilities are either safe to use or are disconnected before they leave the site. DO NOT attempt to reconnect utilities yourself.

- Conduct an inventory of damaged property and items. Do not throw away any damaged goods until after an inventory is made.
- Try to locate valuable documents and records. Refer to information on contacts and the replacement process inside this brochure.
- Begin saving receipts for any money you spend related to fire loss. The receipts may be needed later by the insurance company and for verifying losses claimed on income tax.
- Notify your mortgage company of the fire.

Prevent Home Fires

Home fires are preventable! The following are simple steps that each of us can take to prevent a tragedy.

Cooking

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- Wear short, close-fitting or tightly rolled sleeves when cooking.
- Keep children away from cooking areas by enforcing a "kid-free zone" of 3 feet around the stove.
- Position barbecue grills at least 10 feet away from siding and deck railings, and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.

Smoking

- Smoke outside and completely stub out butts in an ashtray or a can filled with sand.
- Soak cigarette butts and ashes in water before throwing them away. Never toss hot cigarette butts or ashes in the trash can.
- Never smoke in a home where oxygen is used, even if it is turned off. Oxygen can be explosive and makes fire burn hotter and faster.
- Be alert - don't smoke in bed! If you are sleepy, have been drinking, or have taken medicine that makes you drowsy, put your cigarette out first.

Electrical and Appliance Safety

- Frayed wires can cause fires. Replace all worn, old or damaged appliance cords immediately and do not run cords under rugs or furniture.
- If an appliance has a three-prong plug, use it only in a three-slot outlet. Never force it to fit into a two-slot outlet or extension cord.
- Immediately shut off, then professionally replace, light switches that are hot to the touch and lights that flicker.

Portable Space Heaters

- Keep combustible objects at least three feet away from portable heating devices.
- Buy only heaters evaluated by a nationally recognized laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).
- Check to make the portable heater has a thermostat control mechanism, and will switch off automatically if the heater falls over.
- Only use crystal clear K-1 kerosene in kerosene heaters. Never overfill it. Use the heater in a well-ventilated room.

Fireplaces and Woodstoves

- Inspect and clean woodstove pipes and chimneys annually and check monthly for damage or obstructions.
- Use a fireplace screen heavy enough to stop rolling logs and big enough to cover the entire opening of the fireplace to catch flying sparks.
- Make sure the fire is completely out before leaving the house or going to bed.

Children

- Take the mystery out of fire play by teaching children that fire is a tool, not a toy.
- Store matches and lighters out of children's reach and sight, preferably in a locked cabinet.
- Never leave children unattended near operating stoves or burning candles, even for a short time.

More Prevention Tips

- Never use stove range or oven to heat your home.
- Keep combustible and flammable liquids away from heat sources.
- Portable generators should NEVER be used indoors and should only be refueled outdoors or in well ventilated areas.

Attachment B: The 7 Ways to Prepare for a Home Fire

1.

Install the right number of smoke alarms. Test them once a month and replace the batteries at least once a year.

2.

Teach children what smoke alarms sound like and what to do when they hear one.

3.

Ensure that all household members know two ways to escape from every room of your home and know the family meeting spot outside of your home.

4.

Establish a family emergency communications plan and ensure that all household members know who to contact if they cannot find one another.

5.

Practice escaping from your home at least twice a year. Press the smoke alarm test button or yell “Fire” to alert everyone that they must get out.

6.

Make sure everyone knows how to call 9-1-1.

7.

Teach household members to STOP, DROP and ROLL if their clothes should catch on fire.

ATTACHMENT C: FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Use a fire extinguisher that is marked with the tag A-B-C for the following types of fire: ☐ Class A - Ordinary combustibles (wood, paper, plastic) ☐ Class B – Flammable liquids (gasoline, paint, paint solvents and oil) ☐ Class C – Electrical fires (microwaves, toasters, switches)

Photo Credit: John Ahlman

Make sure the indicator shows that the extinguisher is fully charged. If the needle is in the green section the extinguisher is fully charged and ready to use.

FIRE EXTINGUISHER APPLICATION-PASS

- 1. PULL the pin on the fire extinguisher so that it is ready to use.**
 - 3. SQUEEZE your hand on the nozzle to activate the extinguisher**
 - 4.**
- SWEEP the nozzle at base of the fire from one side to the other.**