Ready
Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed.

FEMA

Wildfires

A wildfire is a fire that rages out of control in the wilderness, like a forest or countryside. Wildfires often begin unnoticed. These fires are usually triggered by lightning or accidents, such as campers or hikers that did not take care of their campfire properly. They spread quickly, igniting brush, trees, and homes.

Am I at risk?

Wildfires are common in wildland settings where there are many forests and during periods of little rainfall. At Yellowstone National Park, the average time when fires are reported is 3:03 in the afternoon! This is because fires burn more strongly during the middle of the day when the sun is very hot.

Did you know?

Incident Meteorologists (IMETs) are a group of around 70 specially trained weather experts with the National Weather Service. They work closely with wildfire responders at wildfire sites, monitoring, analyzing, and reporting fire and weather conditions to ensure the safety of emergency responders. Their forecasts help firefighters plan operations when dealing with the unpredictable nature of fire.

FACT CHECK

1. What three elements make up the fire triangle (necessary to create and maintain a fire)?

   H ___ ___ ___

   F ___ ___ ___

   O ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

2. **True or False?** People create most wildfires.

ANSWERS

(1) Heat, Fuel, Oxygen. When there is not enough heat generated, or when the fuel runs out, is removed, or isolated, or when oxygen supply is limited, then a side of the triangle is broken and the fire cannot survive.

(2) True! Many fires are started by accident.

- Unattended debris burning
- Equipment fires (lawnmowers, ATV's)
- Smoking
- Unattended campfires
- Fireworks
- Discarded fireplace or BBQ coals

BE A HERO!™

For more facts and info on wildfires visit
http://www.ready.gov/kids/know-the-facts/wildfires
http://www.fs.fed.us/kids/
http://www.smokeybear.com/

Ready
Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed.

FEMA

Wildfires

Be Prepared

BEFORE

- Build an emergency kit.
- Make a family communications plan.
- Make sure your family has smoke alarms on every level of your home, especially in bedrooms. Ask your parents to check them every month and to change the batteries every year.
- If you don't have a smoke alarm, check with your local fire department about getting a free one.
- Help your parents to rake the lawn and rid it of leaves and twigs. These can catch fire if a wildfire is near your home.
- Never play with matches. You could accidentally start a fire.

DURING

- Listen to emergency officials if they say to evacuate.
- If you see a wildfire, call 911. You may be the first person to have spotted it!
- Help your parents fill outdoor tubs, pools, or garbage cans with water.
- Help your parents place important papers and family photographs inside the car, inside the garage. Put your pets in the car, too, so if you need to leave immediately, everything is packed.
- Put important things that won't be damaged by water in a pool or pond.
- Turn on outside lights and all the lights on inside the house. This will help it be seen in heavy smoke.

AFTER

- If you are at home, keep a "fire watch." That means, look for smoke or sparks throughout the house. If you see anything, tell a grown-up immediately!
- If you have evacuated, do not go home until safety officials say it's okay.
- Stay away from downed or dangling power lines. They could electrocute you.
- Look out for ash pits or hidden embers. Stay away. They could burn you.
- Do not use water from the faucet unless emergency officials say it's okay.

WORDS TO KNOW

Smoke Alarms Sensors attached to the ceiling that sound an alarm when they sense smoke

Fire Extinguisher A fire protection device that sprays foam and is used to help put out small fires

Evacuation Leaving an area that has been declared unsafe

BE A HERO!™

For more facts and info on wildfires visit
http://www.smokeybear.com/