

# Living With **WILDFIRE** in the Inland Empire



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# TOGETHER We Can Make A DIFFERENCE!

Mountain Rim Fire Safe Council thanks its partners in wildfire prevention, education, preparedness and response.



... and YOU!



# Touched by Tragedy in the INLAND EMPIRE

Long time Yucaipa residents, Marge Chapin and Rob and Susie Huddleston, are just one of many families affected by the El Dorado Fire that started on September 5, 2020. Years of memories perished in the barn fire. From the outside eye, it appears to be just an ordinary barn that fell victim to the flames, but to the Chapin and Huddleston family it was so much more. Within the barn were irreplaceable priceless family heirlooms and memories that will be lost forever. Just a few items in the barn included years of sports memorabilia, a wedding dress, yearbooks, holiday decorations, wood working tools, family photographs and so more. Not only did the barn store family heirlooms, but it was a place where family and friends gathered for parties over the years. In the fire, the family also lost a 1949 Ford Flatbed truck.

“The truck was originally my grandfather’s. Years ago, my father used the 49 Ford as a work truck in the Highland orange groves. It is a devastating loss to our family,” said Susie Huddleston.

After the Chapin and Huddleston family evacuated their residence, the fire destroyed the barn an hour later.

“My daughter called us from out of state and told us our barn was destroyed after viewing the fire destruction on a live feed on social media. We did not know if our house was gone too. It’s devastating to see everything is gone in and around the barn. I’m thankful my house is still standing. In all actuality, it is just stuff and we have our home. We hope to rebuild in the future,” said Susie Huddleston.

“Thankfully, we had enough time and warning to evacuate before the fire destroyed our barn,” said Rob Huddleston.

“The barn was home to my dad’s woodworking shop, where he made a lot of the furniture that is in our house. He also just started a small-business making wooden flags and custom pieces for friends and family. We hope to build a new barn for my parents and grandmother in the near future and hope in time our community heals from the devastating wrath of the El Dorado Fire,” said Bailey Huddleston.

Article by Debbie Strong was first published in the Yucaipa Calimesa News Mirror on 09-20-2020



## El Dorado Fire Details:

Over a 23 day period, the fire burned 22,680 acres and destroyed 10 structures, including four residences, and damaged six others. At the peak, there were 1,351 personnel assigned to the fire including 17 hand crews, 177 engines, 20 water tenders, 17 dozers, and 10 helicopters. Numerous Fixed Wing Tankers including a DC-10 assisted with aerial fire-retardant drops. Three Canadian Fire Bosses and a Single Engine Air Tanker (SEAT) Water Scooper were also used for the first time in Southern California. The fire was caused by a pyrotechnic device at a gender reveal party and spread rapidly, causing one fatality, Charlie Morton, a 14-year veteran firefighter with the San Bernardino National Forest, as well as thirteen injuries. (source <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov>)



# PRESENTED By:

This informative magazine would not have been possible without the contributions of the following: DuPlain Designs, Debbie Strong, David Haas/CAL FIRE, and MRFSC’s Board of Directors (Laura Dyberg, Robert Tiberi, Terisa Bonito, Marlene Kiemel, Jim Taylor and Don Fischer).



Grant funding for this publication is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide program that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing GHG emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment—particularly in disadvantaged communities. The Cap-and-Trade program also creates a financial incentive for industries to invest in clean technologies and develop innovative ways to reduce pollution. California Climate Investments projects include affordable housing, renewable energy, public transportation, zero-emission vehicles, environmental restoration, more sustainable agriculture, recycling, and much more. At least 35 percent of these investments are located within and benefiting residents of disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and low-income households across California. For more information, visit the California Climate Investments website at: <http://www.caclimateinvestments.ca.gov>



**Photos in this magazine are all courtesy of Debbie Strong, unless otherwise noted.**



**Debbie Strong** retired from CAL FIRE in 2018, after a rewarding 30-year career in the fire service in the CAL FIRE San Bernardino Unit. She began her fire service career in 1986 as a Volunteer Fire Fighter in the Devore community. She worked through the ranks of firefighter, engineer and fire captain. Her diverse career ranged from various assignments as a fire captain including working at a fire station, the Emergency Command Center, City Fire Marshal and Pre-Fire Engineering, which works closely with Fire Safe Councils in San Bernardino County. Debbie studied sports medicine, fire science, geographic formation system (GIS), and earned a bachelor’s degree in Public Adminstration from Cal State University, San Bernardino.

After retirement, Debbie took an interest in many photography genres including: landscape, nature, astrophotography, photojournalism, macro photography, fashion, and portrait. While enjoying retirement Debbie has chased the milky way in Joshua Tree, Yellowstone, Wyoming and Iceland. “The aurora borealis above the glacier lagoon took my breath away while visiting Iceland,” said Debbie. She perioically works as a free-lance reporter and photographer for a local newspaper publication.



# Living With WILDFIRE

Much of the southwest United States is considered a high fire hazard environment. Long before “modern civilization,” fires would periodically burn through—part of an environmental cycle that renewed, and re-invigorated living things.

All the natural factors necessary to support large, intense and uncontrollable fires remain. What’s changed is an increased population with an increase of homes in these areas, often with little regard to fire’s threat. This has caused an interference with the cycle of periodic fires. Result: greater fire potential to more and more people. Result: catastrophic fires causing huge losses and un-meetable demands on fire fighting resources. Result: a direct threat to your community, your home, your family!

There are things you can do to understand the threat and prepare for it. Pre-prepare. “Pre” is the key. This document outlines steps you can take—long before a fire—to prepare your home and family to survive wildfire.

Every step you take in advance reduces risk to you, your family and your home—whether firefighters are available to help protect you or not.

Fire is, and always has been, part of the dynamics of the beautiful area in which you’ve chosen to live. Through advanced planning and preparation, we can be ready for wildfire.

Read on. Learn why wildfire is a real threat and the steps you can take to be prepared to meet that threat.

### Recent California Wildfire Statistics:

2019 Combined YTD (CAL FIRE & Federal)	7,148 fires	259,823 acres
2020 Combined YTD (CAL FIRE & Federal)	9,917 fires	4,257,863 acres

There is no longer a wildfire “season” – here are figures through February 28<sup>th</sup> – winter!  
2021 Combined YTD (CAL FIRE & Federal) 558 fires 1,850 acres

Source <https://www.fire.ca.gov/stats-events/>

*(Statistics include all wildfires responded to by CAL FIRE in both the State Responsibility Area, as well as the Local Responsibility Area under contract with the department. Statistics may not include wildfires in State Responsibility Area protected by CAL FIRE’s contract counties.*

*Special thanks to University of Nevada, Reno Cooperative Extension, and Dr. Ed Smith, for developing the original version of “Living with Fire.” We have borrowed extensively from this excellent work.*

photo courtesy of San Bernardino County Fire



### The Wildfire Equation

Fire continues to be a part of our ecosystem. Fires start every day and your local firefighting resources quickly respond to control them.

**PLUS**  
People are living in this fire environment. Many homes have been built and landscaped with no thought of wildfire. And they’re often on narrow roads.

**PLUS**  
With more people and homes, fires are more likely to happen—with devastating results.

**PLUS**  
Today’s wildfires can burn fast...and seasonal hot, dry winds drive fires even faster, making them impossible to control.

**EQUALS**  
**DISASTER**  
• deaths and serious injuries  
• natural resources & wildlife destroyed  
• homes and treasures within lost  
• neighborhoods devastated





# Know Before You Go!

**Fire restrictions on Forest Service lands change with the seasons. Check them before you head out and enjoy your visit!**

Arson investigators examine a site of an illegal campfire that caused a small wildfire (Forest Service photo by Lisa Cox).

## California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection



Since 1885 the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) has protected the people, property, and natural resources of California. The men and women of CAL FIRE are dedicated to the fire protection and stewardship of over 31 million acres of California's privately-owned wildlands. The heart of the Department's emergency response and resource protection capability is a force of approximately 8,000 permanent and seasonal employees that help fulfill the departments mission to serve and safeguard the people and protect the property and resources of California.

### FIRE PREVENTION

Preventing wildfires in the State Responsibility Area (SRA) is a vital part of CAL FIRE's mission. The Department responds to nearly 6,000 wildland fires that burn on average over 260,000 acres each year. Beyond its wildland fire fighting role, CAL FIRE is an "all-risk" department. The Department is always ready to respond - medical aids; hazardous material spills; swiftwater rescues; search and rescue missions; civil disturbances; train wrecks; floods, earthquakes and more.

### OSFM

Since 1995, the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) has supported the mission of CAL FIRE by focusing on fire prevention. Through major program elements that include engineering, education, enforcement, and support from the State Board of Fire Services, OSFM has a wide variety of fire safety responsibilities.

[WWW.FIRE.CA.GOV](http://WWW.FIRE.CA.GOV)  
[WWW.READYFORWILDFIRE.ORG](http://WWW.READYFORWILDFIRE.ORG)

### RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Through its foresters and other natural resource professionals, CAL FIRE is responsible for the management and protection of California's natural resources under its Forest Practice, Urban Forestry, Fuel Reduction, Demonstration State Forest, Pest Management, Landowner Assistance, Environmental Protection and Regulation, Archaeology, Fire and Resource Assessment, and Nursery programs. CAL FIRE foresters promote conservation and the importance of our trees and forests to Californians of all ages.

# The Wildfire ENVIRONMENT

## Weather

Dry, hot and windy weather increases the likelihood of a major wildfire.

These conditions:

- make ignition easier
- help fuels burn more rapidly
- increase fire intensity

High windspeeds, in particular, can transform a small, easily controlled fire into a catastrophic event.

## Fuel

Fuel is required for any fire to burn. In a wildfire, fuels are usually living vegetation (trees, shrubs, brush, grass) and dead plant materials (dead trees, dried grass, fallen branches, etc.) Homes, when in the path of wildfire, can become fuel. The quantity, size, moisture content, arrangement and other fuel characteristics influence the ease of ignition, rate of fire spread, length of flames and other fire behavior.

## Terrain

Of the topographic features, steepness of slope is among the most influential on fire behavior. Heat and gases created by a fire rise, drying out and heating up fuels further upslope. The steeper the slope, the faster a fire will spread. Other important factors are:

- "aspect" – (the direction a slope faces): south and southwest slopes are typically hotter and drier, increasing the likelihood of fire on these aspects
- "chimneys" – steep, narrow drainage

## Endangered Species

Federal and state regulations have been established to protect rare and endangered plants and animals. Whenever there is any doubt about clearing or thinning brush, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife should be consulted.

## Human Environment

As people move into wildfire country, the human-built environment becomes important in predicting loss of life and property.

- Combustible construction, especially roofs
  - Narrow roads, limited access
  - Lack of fire-smart landscaping
  - Inadequate water supply
  - Poorly planned subdivisions
- ... are examples of increased risk to people living with the threat of wildfire.

Today, researchers are studying the fire environment in great detail. They're gaining knowledge and understanding about the complex inter-relationships between man and nature.

Fire experts have long-recognized three basic components: weather, fuel and terrain.

Together, these three items affect the likelihood of fire starting, how fast it moves, its power and difficulty to control.

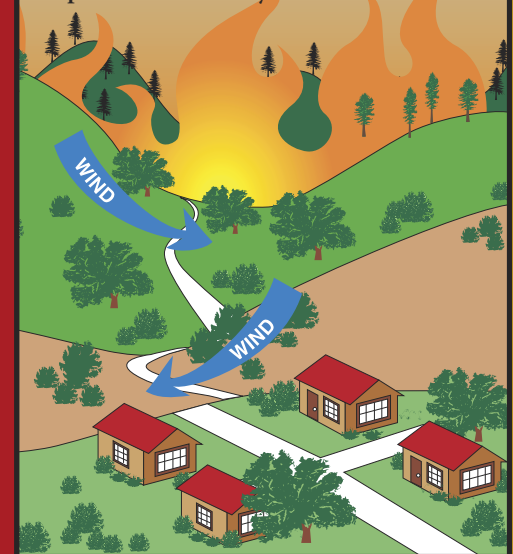


Photo Courtesy of San Bernardino County Fire



# The Wildfire ENVIRONMENT continued

## How Santa Ana Winds Work

The Santa Anas get their start in the Great Basin, the vast expanse of desert that covers much of Nevada, Utah and southern Idaho. High pressure over the Great Basin forces cool, dry desert air toward the southwest. There, the winds plunge down through the mountains of Southern California, toward areas of comparatively lower pressure. As they whistle through canyons and valleys of the mountains that separate the desert from the coastal strip between San Diego and Santa Barbara, the air is compressed and heated as it descends, sometimes dramatically. The winds also pick up speed as they travel toward the coast.

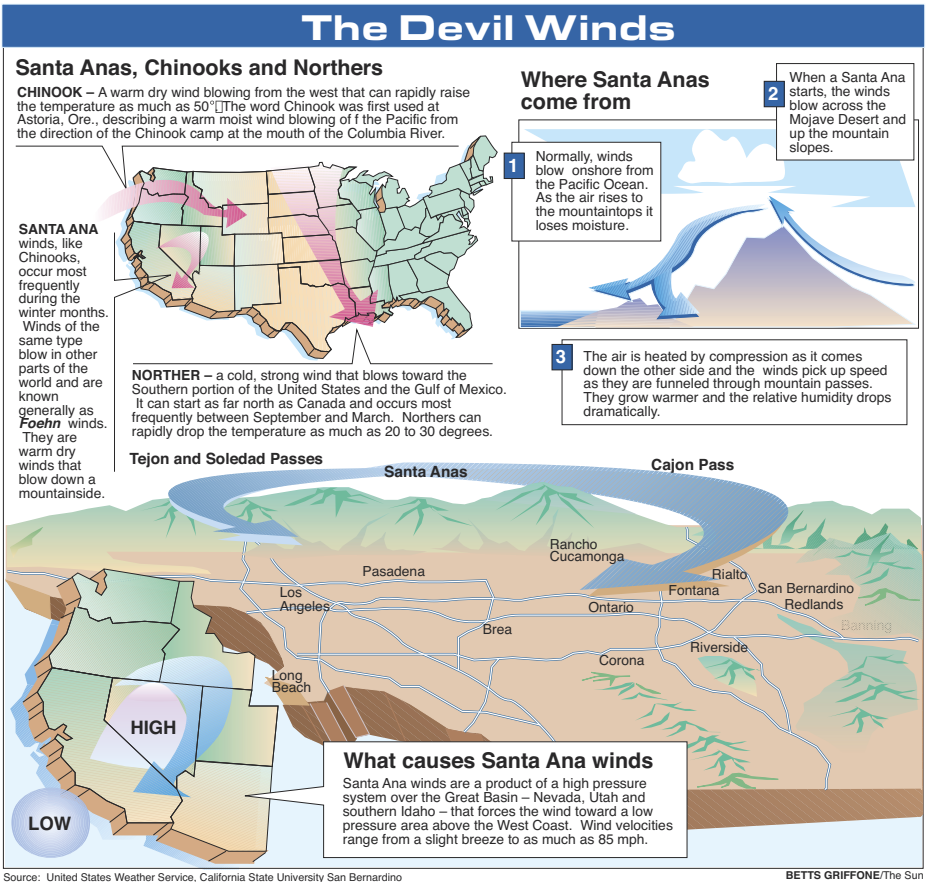
“Think of a whole bunch of air getting shot down through a funnel,” said Bonnie Bartling, a meteorological technician with the National Weather Service in Oxnard.

Coastal Southern California is normally bathed in cool, moist air blowing ashore from the Pacific Ocean, creating its moderate climate.

Santa Anas reverse that flow. As they blow through the region, the winds — which can feel like the blast of heat from an oven — dry out vegetation and sap the air of humidity, creating the potential for destructive fires. If a fire does break out in the dry chaparral that carpets many undeveloped areas of Southern California, the gusting Santa Anas only further fan the flames.

The Santa Ana winds typically blow between September and February. In October and November 1993, the winds exacerbated unrelated fires that charred thousands of acres, killed three and destroyed 1,000 buildings in Malibu, Altadena and Laguna Beach.

One benefit of the Santa Anas is that the winds push out to sea and disperse smog from the Los Angeles region. The winds were named by settlers in the area of Santa Ana, a city 40 miles southeast of Los Angeles.



## The speed of spread and flame length would increase greatly during seasonal dry winds like “Santa Anas.”

### Firebrands / Embers

Firebrands are burning embers produced by wildfire which are lifted high into the air and carried beyond the fire front. Firebrands are one of the major causes of homes burned due to wildfire.

Typical firebrand materials include pieces of burning vegetation, and, if houses are involved, wood shakes and shingles. Depending on wind speed and size of materials, firebrands can be carried more than 1 mile ahead of the fire front.

A shower of thousands of firebrands can be produced during a major wildfire event. If these firebrands land in areas with easily ignited fuels—including wood roofs—numerous spot fires can start. Homes located blocks away from the main fire front can be threatened.

## Is there anything we can do? YES!

The keys to surviving wildfire are:

- 1 DEFENSIBLE Space
- 2 Fire-hardened HOMES
- 3 EVACUATION Planning



Shown are three examples of vegetation common to our region with computer-generated estimates of how each would burn under common fire weather conditions. Predictions are based on a 20 MPH wind and a 20% uphill slope. Fuel moisture content is based on normal weather for August in our area.

### Grass Fire



Speed: 4 miles per hour  
Area: 2.5 acres per minute =  
(6 football fields per minute) Fire size in 6 minutes: 27 acres Flame length: 8 feet

### Grass & Brush Fire



Speed: 1.7 miles per hour  
Area: 4/5 acre per minute =  
(1.1 football fields per minute) Fire size in 6 minutes: 5 acres Flame length: 12 feet

### Tall Chaparral Fire



Speed: 8.3 miles per hour  
Area: 6 acres per minute =  
(8 football fields per minute) Fire size in 6 minutes: 36 acres Flame length: 47 feet



**San Bernardino County is an amazing place. Our local mountains, deserts, rivers and lakes are gorgeous in their majestic diversity. Living in the mountains may be the most envious with its clear skies, beautiful lakes, and tight-knit communities.**

One of the undertakings in the fire service over the past two decades is the movement towards Community Risk Reduction (CRR) as opposed to fire prevention. While fire prevention has focused on education and regulation geared towards structural fire safety, we know that many more risks, other than just structure fires, exist in our day-to-day lives and communities. Our firefighters know their communities better than almost any other organization out there. From going inside people's homes on medical calls, to inspecting new construction, to driving the streets daily, firefighters know their little corners of the world very well. With CRR, the focus is how a department can take this knowledge and regular interaction and use it to make the community safer from medical, fire, and man-made and natural disasters.

To manage risk, the Fire Service views CRR with five different elements known as "The Five E's". To reduce risk, we must provide **E**ducation, **E**ngineering controls, **E**nforcement of ordinances, **E**conomic incentives, and finally, if all the other "E's" fail... an effective **E**mergency response.

Our Fire District works closely with our emergency response partners; CAL FIRE, USFS, Big Bear, Running Springs fire and Arrowbear Lake fire departments, to provide an emergency response framework that makes each one of our fire agencies more resilient and effective in its emergency response. We meet regularly, plan regionally, train together, and look for ways to support each other in our CRR activities. Without these agencies, the Fire District would have a very difficult time adequately responding to major emergencies - we ARE better together! But what has all of this to do with you, a resident in our wonderful mountains? As explained in the paragraph above, the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District continuously strives to identify and mitigate risks. As a resident, you too can use risk assessment tools found on the sbcfire.org "Ready! Set! Go!" webpage <https://sbcfire.org/Programs/ReadySetGoFire.aspx>. The Residential Assessment Program (RAP) provides a great fire safe and defensible space checklist for your home. The Fire District cannot mitigate or respond to risks alone, we rely on our partners. You too should work as "neighbors helping neighbors", join the Fire Safe Council, and work together to harden your homes and communities to wildfire. Your San Bernardino County Fire Protection District is proud to protect our mountain top communities. A heartfelt "thank you" to Mountain Rim Fire Safe Council and all the fire safe councils for your hard work and efforts to protect and keep our communities "fire safe". We could never do our job without you!

Daniel R. Munsey Fire Chief/Fire Warden  
San Bernardino County Fire Protection District



**The Running Springs Fire Department has been an integral part of the community of Running Springs within the San Bernardino mountains since 1951, protecting the community from wildfire and providing emergency medical response.**



For more information, visit [www.runningsspringsfire.org](http://www.runningsspringsfire.org).  
31250 Hilltop Boulevard • P.O. Box 2206, Running Springs, CA 92382  
Michael R. Vasquez, Fire Chief

*Serving the residents of Arrowbear Lake and the mountain communities for almost a half century with professionalism, compassion, and community involvement.*



Arrowbear Lake Fire also assists Running Springs Fire, San Bernardino County Fire and CAL FIRE with Mutual Aid as requested.

Under the direction of Fire Chief Jim Ozias, the combination of Volunteer and Paid Call Crews are dedicated and passionate about their role in the community.

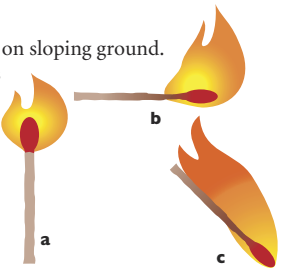
Contact [www.ablfd.org](http://www.ablfd.org) for more information.

# Steps to Defensible SPACE

## 1. How Slopes Fuel Fires

You can use wooden kitchen matches to get a better idea of how fire behaves on sloping ground.

- a) Strike the first match and hold it upright as shown. Note how long it takes for the flame to reach your fingers. Dispose of the burned match safely.
- b) Strike a second match and hold it in a horizontal position to see how this angle increases the speed of the flame.
- c) Angle the third match downward and you'll discover how rapidly it burns. This third position is the situation of steep slopes with the fuel preheating the vegetation or structures.



## 2. Reducing the "Fuel"

The first goal in creating a defensible space is to selectively remove plants, then prune to reduce fuel volume of the plants that remain.

Sometimes wildland plants and even landscaping can occur as an uninterrupted layer of vegetation as opposed to being patchy or widely spread individual plants. The more continuous and dense the vegetation, the greater the wildfire threat.

If this situation is present within your recommended defensible space area, you should "break-it-up" by providing for separation between plants or small groups of plants.

Clear dry vegetation in cooler, earlier hours, not in the heat of the day. Remember, if it's too hot outside for you to be working, it's too hot to be using equipment for clearing

## 3. Ladder Fuels

Vegetation is often present at varying heights, similar to rungs on a ladder. Under these conditions, flames from fuels burning at ground level can be carried to shrubs, which can ignite still higher fuels like tree branches. The ladder fuel problem can be corrected by providing a separation between the vegetation layers. Within the defensible space area, a vertical separation of three times the height of the lower fuel layer is recommended.

## 4. Smart Landscaping

Landscaping with wildfire in mind—"firescaping"—involves plant selection based primarily on the plant's ability to reduce the wildfire threat. Minimize the use of evergreen shrubs and trees within 30–50 ft. of a structure, because junipers, manzanita, other conifers and broadleaf evergreens, such as eucalyptus, contain oils, resins and waxes that make these plants burn with great intensity. Use ornamental grasses and berries sparingly because they also can be highly flammable.

Choose "fire smart" plants. These are plants with high moisture content. They are low growing. Their stems and leaves are not resinous, oily or waxy. Deciduous trees are generally more fire resistant than evergreens because they have a higher moisture content when in leaf, but a lower fuel volume when dormant. Contact the CAL FIRE or your local fire department for recommendations or for referrals to local experts for appropriate fire-resistive planting options for your particular area.

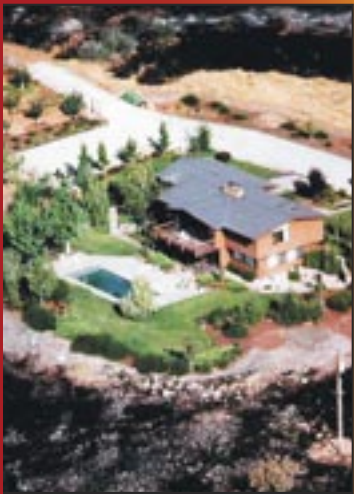
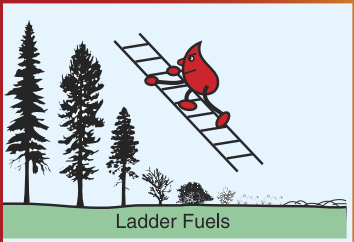
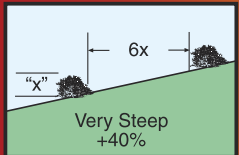
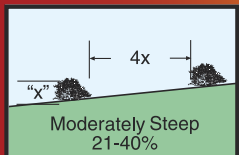
## 5. Maintaining it Fire-Safe

A fire-resistant plant can lose this quality altogether if not properly maintained and irrigated. Lack of long term attention can result in fire-resistant plants loading up with dead twigs, leaves and branches, to grow into monstrous, yet sometimes invisible fuel volumes.

Drip irrigation, plus periodic pruning and cleaning can maintain the fire-resistiveness as well as the appearance of landscaping.

## 6. Environmental Regulations

Federal and State environmental regulations might, at first, appear to conflict with fire protection planning concepts. Environmental law should not be ignored in preparing for wildfire. Cooperation between environmental regulators, fire agencies and property owners has resulted in an agreement to allow a 100 ft. clearance from existing structures. If endangered species are encountered, contact environmental agencies for guidance.



Firefighters can control about 97% of all wildfires that start. 3% overwhelm even the best-equipped, well-staffed agencies. That's when your advanced preparation REALLY counts.



# WILDFIRE IS COMING. ARE YOU READY?



Defensible Space is your property's front line defense against wildfire. Creating and maintaining defensible space around your home can dramatically increase your home's chance of surviving a wildfire and improves the safety of firefighters defending your property. 100 feet of defensible space is required by law.\*



**ONE LESS SPARK**  
ONE LESS WILDFIRE

\*For more information on creating defensible space and legal requirements visit

**READYFORWILDFIRE.ORG**

## TWO ZONES MAKE UP THE REQUIRED 100 FEET OF DEFENSIBLE SPACE:

### ZONE 1: 30 feet of Lean, Clean & Green

- 1 Remove all dead plants, grass and weeds.
- 2 Remove dead or dry leaves and pine needles from your yard, roof and rain gutters.
- 3 Keep tree branches 10 feet away from your chimney and other trees.

### ZONE 2: 30–100 feet of Reduced Fuel

- 4 Cut or mow annual grass down to a maximum height of 4 inches.
- 5 Create horizontal spacing between shrubs and trees.
- 6 Create vertical spacing between grass, shrubs and trees.

### Use Equipment Properly to Keep from Sparking a Wildfire

- 7 Mow before 10 a.m., and never on a hot or windy day. String trimmers are a safer option (vs. lawnmowers) for clearing vegetation.



### VERTICAL SPACING

Large trees do not have to be cut and removed as long as all of the plants beneath them are removed. This eliminates a vertical "fire ladder."



### HORIZONTAL SPACING

Create horizontal and vertical spacing between plants, the amount of spacing will depend on how steep the slope is and the size of the plants.

## Steps to Defensible SPACE continued

### Things You Can Do To Better Protect Your Family And Home From Wildfire

In a wildfire, firefighting forces are stretched to the limit. You can design or modify your home to resist wildfire—or it can be totally unprepared and indefensible.

A Defensible or fire-hardened HOME has a far better chance of survival—whether or not firefighters can get to it in time!

The manner in which a house is designed, location where it is built, materials used in its construction, and fire department access, all influence survivability during a wildfire. These recommendations are primarily from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's "How to Make Your Home Fire Safe." When coupled with an effective Defensible SPACE, these recommendations are primarily from CAL FIRE's prevention education materials.

### ACCESS-Your Home, Your Community

- Identify at least two roads out from your neighborhood.
- Construct roads that allow two-way traffic.
- Design road width, grade, curves and vertical clearance, to allow large emergency vehicles. Check with your local fire marshal.
- Construct driveways to allow large emergency equipment to reach your home.
- Design bridges to carry heavy emergency vehicles, including bulldozers carried on large trucks.
- Post road signs to show traffic restrictions such as "dead-end," and weight and height limitations.
- Make sure dead-end roads and long driveways have turnaround areas wide enough for emergency vehicles. Construct turnouts along one-way roads.
- Make sure the address numbers on your home are reflective or contrasting with the background, and large enough to be clearly seen from the street. If needed, provide a second set of numbers.
- Clear combustible vegetation at least 10 feet from roads and driveways.
- Cut back overhanging tree branches above roads. Fire trucks need a minimum 14 feet vertical clearance.
- Construct "natural" fire barriers such as greenbelts, parks, golf courses, irrigated groves and athletic fields.

### OUTSIDE

- Designate one emergency meeting place outside the home, and one outside your neighborhood.
- Practice emergency exit drills regularly.
- Make sure electric service lines, fuse and breaker panels are installed and maintained as prescribed by the electrical code.
- Contact qualified service personnel to perform electrical maintenance and repairs.

### The Wood Shake and Shingle Roof Hazard

Your home can be threatened by wildfire in three ways:

**1. Direct exposure to flames. 2. Radiated heat 3. Airborne firebrands/embers**  
Of these, firebrands account for the majority of homes burned by wildfire. The most vulnerable part of a house to firebrands is the roof.

Because of its angle, the roof can catch and trap firebrands. If the roof is constructed of combustible materials, the house is in jeopardy of igniting and burning.

Not only are combustible roofing materials a hazard to the structure they cover, but also to other houses in the vicinity. Burning wood shakes, for example, can become firebrands, be lifted from the burning roof by a thermal column of rising smoke and flames, and be carried blocks away, igniting other combustible roofs.

Unfortunately for owners of existing combustible roofs, there are no long-term reliable measures to reduce roof vulnerability to wildfire – other than re-roofing with non-combustible materials.

### The Three "R's" of Defensible Space

#### REMOVAL

Eliminate entire plants, particularly trees and shrubs from the zone. Examples: cutting down a dead tree or cutting out a flammable shrub.

#### REDUCTION

Remove plant parts such as branches or leaves. Examples: pruning dead wood from a shrub, removing low branches and mowing dried grass.

#### REPLACEMENT

Substitute more hazardous vegetation with less flammable plants. Examples: removal of a dense stand of flammable shrubs and planting an irrigated, well-maintained flower bed.







## Our Mission:

Engage Americans in promoting the health and public enjoyment of our National Forests

To learn more visit [support.nationalforests.org/socal](https://support.nationalforests.org/socal)

HOW DOES SMOKE IMPACT YOUR COMMUNITY?

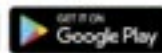
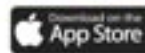
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[www.aqmd.gov/mobileapp](https://www.aqmd.gov/mobileapp)



POINT YOUR CAMERA HERE



The Inland Empire Resource Conservation District (IERCD) is a public agency serving the Upper Santa Ana Watershed, including portions of the San Bernardino Mountains. The IERCD's mission focuses on open space preservation, sustainable agriculture, forest health and fire resiliency, and education and outreach. IERCD staff work with private landowners to provide resources and technical assistance on a variety of conservation topics, including forest health and fire resiliency, and collaborate with agency and non-profit partners to increase the pace and scale of conservation work. The IERCD also oversees the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program for the San Bernardino Mountains.

More information about the IERCD and its programs can be found at [www.iercd.org](https://www.iercd.org)

## Together

We Have the Power to Keep the Future Bright

An emergency can happen at any time. There are some simple and basic steps you can take, like having a preparedness plan, some basic supplies and staying informed. SCE has invested in a variety of improvements and innovations to help prevent wildfires and act quickly when they occur to keep you and your community safe.

We are proud to partner with the **Mountain Rim Fire Safe Council**

For information on Wildfire Safety and Public Safety Power Shutoffs, please visit [sce.com/wildfire](https://sce.com/wildfire)

WILDFIRE-MONITORING CAMERAS



WEATHER STATIONS

COVERED CONDUCTOR



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

### Natural Resources Conservation Service

**WHO IS THE NRCS?** The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is the federal agency that works with private landowners to help them protect their natural resources and keep watersheds healthy. NRCS emphasizes voluntary, science-based assistance, partnerships, and cooperative problem solving at the community level.

**THE PROBLEM** Due to extreme fire behavior, unprecedented landscape-scale fires, and wind events, the impact to California's forests has been widespread and destructive. Events following the damage from fires can be detrimental to watersheds, public safety, and long-term recovery of these landscapes. Responding quickly after a fire and offering select practices may offer a long-term solution to address the long-lasting impacts of high intensity fires.

**NRCS ASSISTANCE TO PRIVATE FORESTLAND** NRCS can provide technical and financial assistance for private forestland owners to promote healthy and productive forests, reduce soil erosion, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and minimize impacts to water quality and reduce wildfire risks. NRCS can also provide post-fire resource protection and public safety in areas affected by wildfire.

Contact Us [www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/ca/home/](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/ca/home/)  
USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Redlands Service Center  
Tomas Aguilar Campos (District Conservationist)  
Phone: (909) 283-7782  
Email: [Tomas.Aguilar-Campos@usda.gov](mailto:Tomas.Aguilar-Campos@usda.gov)

Victorville Service Center  
Holly Shiralipour (District Conservationist)  
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Email: [Holly.Shiralipour@usda.gov](mailto:Holly.Shiralipour@usda.gov)



# EVACUATION PLANNING

## GET READY

Long before fire threatens, plan your evacuation.

Make a list of items you want to take with you during an evacuation. Here's an example, but prepare your own list.

### Important Stuff

- ☐ prescriptions, medications
- ☐ eyeglasses
- ☐ important documents (birth certificates, passports, insurance papers & inventory, personal phone & address books, tax records, personal finance floppy disks, children's school records, inoculation and vaccination records, photos, art)
- ☐ jewelry
- ☐ pet, pet food, leash, carrier
- ☐ child's favorite toy
- ☐ other...

- Keep your “Important Stuff” list handy.
- Keep sturdy boxes ready for collecting things on your list.
- Prepare an Emergency Supply Kit.
- Have a corded phone in the house. Cordless home phones do not work when the power is out.
- Copy all important documents and store with a friend or family out of the area.
- Keep a regular address book in addition to what may be stored in your computer or cell phone as this equipment may not work if power is out or towers are down.
- Learn how to manually open and close your garage doors. If power goes out, automatic garage door openers will not work.

**You may not be home when wildfire threatens. Authorities must close roads for safety and you may not be able to enter. Make arrangements in advance for persons or pets who will be home when you're not.**

## GET SET

When evacuation seems likely, put your plan into action.

Take a deep breath, and remember that you have planned well. Remember, too, that lives always take priority over property.

- During fire season, always have at least half a tank of gas in your car. Gas stations may not operate if power goes out. And you may not be able to evacuate by the shortest route out of your area.
- Use your list of “Important Stuff.” Collect those items in boxes you can easily carry.
- Face your car out, so you have the best visibility when you do have to leave.
- Load your “Important Stuff” and 72-Hour Emergency Kit into the car. Load pets at the last minute when the family leaves.

### Emergency Supply Kit

When fire threatens, you won't have time to shop or search for supplies. Assemble a 72-Hour Emergency Kit that includes items you'll need if you have to evacuate.

Store them in easy-to-carry containers such as back-packs, plasticrates...

- ☐ a three-day water supply (1 gallon per person per day)
- ☐ a three-day food supply for family and pets that won't spoil and a way to open containers.
- ☐ one change of clothing & shoes per person
- ☐ one blanket or sleeping bag per person
- ☐ a first aid kit that includes family prescriptions
- ☐ spare eyeglasses & sunglasses
- ☐ emergency tools, battery powered radio, flashlight and plenty of extra batteries extra set of car keys
- ☐ sanitation supplies
- ☐ special items for infants, elderly, disabled
- ☐ goggles (for high wind or blowing embers)
- ☐ work gloves
- ☐ painter's masks or small filter masks to wear during evacuation, if smoke is thick
- ☐ more ??? use your imagination

- If possible, involve your children in the planning – let them feel part of the process. Review and update your “Important Stuff” list & 72-Hour Emergency Kit periodically.
- Plan how you'll transport and house your pet for a long-term evacuation.
- If you have large animals, learn how to prepare. Call your local Department of Animal Control or Humane Society.

**Two Ways Out-just as your home escape plan should include two ways out of every room, identify two ways out of your neighborhood in case the usual way out is blocked by emergency vehicles or fire.**

And if there's time...

- Be sure all windows and doors are closed.
- Close metal window blinds.
- Remove light curtains and other thin combustibles from windows.
- Cluster lawn furniture and other things that might snag firefighter hoselines.
- Leave exterior lights on. It helps firefighters find the house in the smoke.
- Don't leave garden sprinklers on — they can waste critical water pressure.
- Turn off air conditioners and attic fans. These could draw smoke and embers into your home.

## GO!

Get moving!

- Evacuation notification may come in several ways: over the radio, reverse 911 (you receive a call at your home), drive by loud speakers, aerial loud speakers, etc. Don't wait to be told to evacuate. Authorities may not have time to order an evacuation. If you feel threatened, leave on your own initiative.
- Do Evacuate when you are told. Staying behind puts you and your family at serious risk. It also risks the lives of firefighters and diverts critical resources of the firefighting agencies if they have to stop attacking the fire to help you evacuate at a later time.
- Obey orders of law enforcement and fire officers. They understand the risk and are acting on current fire information.
- Drive with your headlights on for visibility.
- Drive calmly and with special attention to fire trucks. They are not as maneuverable as your car.
- Do not block the access roadway for fire trucks.
- If fire overtakes you, you are far safer in the car than out.
- Check with your child's school on their Student Release policy. They should have plans to protect children in place or to bus them to safer locations. To avoid mass congestion during evacuation, pick-up should be arranged after the crisis passes.
- DO NOT call 9-1-1 for non-emergencies.

### BEING EVACUATED - Where, How Long & Why

- Check in at an Evacuation Center as soon as possible. Law enforcement officials can direct you or look for location information on the television, radio or websites such as [www.fire.ca.gov/incidens](http://www.fire.ca.gov/incidens), <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov> and facebook. Whether you stay or not, your checking in will help others know you are safe.
- Your insurance policy may cover food and hotel lodging during this time - verify that in advance, including the daily amounts and timeframe covered. Many insurance companies will provide you with immediate cash advances if you have your policy information with you. Even if you stay with friends or family, track your expenses for insurance purposes.
- Bringing blankets, sleeping bags and even tents may make your stay at a local shelter more comfortable. Remember, pets are not allowed inside the shelter.
- Evacuation may be in effect for hours or days or weeks. Emergency officials make decisions based upon human safety first. Please respect their decisions.
- Remember, even if the fire is under control or “out”, going home may take time as emergency officials and utilities must make sure the area is safe for re-entry. Downed power lines, missing guardrails, sewer and water availability and roadway obstacles are among the many things which must be addressed for safety reasons.
- Do not attempt to re-enter an area until officials allow it.
- Keep informed about the status of the fire and evacuation: websites [www.fire.ca.gov/incidens](http://www.fire.ca.gov/incidens), <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov> and facebook; bulletin boards at shelters and agency fire information booths, radio (KFRG 95.1, KHWW 98.9, KZXY 102.3, KCDZ 107.7, KBHR 93.3), fire information hotlines (US Forest Service 909-383-5688).

### INSURANCE - How Ready Are You?

- Many residents who lost their homes in the 2003 firestorms discovered they were seriously underinsured. When was the last time you actually read your policy to see what is covered and what the coverage amounts are? Speaking with your insurance agent is the best course of action, but some important points to remember are noted below.
- Know what your policy limits are and discuss these limits with your agent. Make sure you have guaranteed replacement cost coverage, with a built in inflation factor. Rebuilding costs in California can be much higher than one can imagine. Your agent should be able to provide rebuilding costs by zip code. If you are still unsure, hire a licensed contractor to provide a written estimate as to what it would cost to rebuild your home as it stands today.
  - Make sure your contents are insured adequately. Remember that antiques, collectibles and jewelry are usually NOT covered under standard contents replacement coverage. You will need a separate rider for these items. Video or photograph your home inside and out, record serial numbers and model numbers of your appliances and electronic items. Store these recordings away from your home in a safe deposit box or storage area.
  - Check your policy for coverage known as Additional Living Expense (ALE) which lists the amount of time you have to live in temporary quarters until your home is rebuilt or repaired. Discuss this coverage with your agent and make sure you understand any limitations that may exist in your coverage.
  - Check your policy for coverage in the event you are evacuated. Will it cover expenses for lodging and food while evacuated? If so, for how long and what are the daily dollar limits?
  - Vehicles damaged by fire should be covered under your auto insurance policy, but verify this coverage now with your insurance agent.
  - If you are a renter, obtain a renters insurance policy for furniture and contents.
  - Mark your calendar to review your policy annually. The values to rebuild your home or your contents may increase significantly, especially if you make home improvements.

Finally, make sure you take your policy or a copy of it with you in the event you are evacuated. If you need assistance with food and lodging or if you lose your home from fire, you must contact the insurance company or agent as soon as possible. Having a copy of your policy in hand will make things less confusing for you family during this very stressful time.

*See next page for more insurance tips.*







When shopping for Home Insurance there are carriers who can offer “too good to be true pricing.” It may show good coverage, but the determining factor is the actual claim reimbursement and timely payouts.

Insurance from a non-admitted carrier will be drastically less cost than an admitted carrier. This is due to whether or not it is guaranteed by the State of California; non-admitted

carriers are not guaranteed. This is an important factor in the event of insurance company undergoing bankruptcy or facing consequences of financial failure. Knowledge is power don't be a victim.

It's important that homeowners contact the insurance agent to verify if the company is admitted or non-admitted. If you discover a non-admitted status, then verify with the company its credit rating. The best rating starts with A and worst is F much like classroom grades. These grades are reported by A.M. Best, a credit rating firm, that has been rating insurance companies since 1906. This will ensure you the peace of mind that a claim for your home and possessions will be compensated.

At Bunyapanasarn Insurance Agency – Farmers Insurance, they understand your insurance is only as good as your claim. Farmers Insurance is an admitted insurance carrier with an A rating. Our partners Paulette and Jennifer are available to help assist you in finding the appropriate coverage at affordable rates, free insurance review and proposal. Call/Text Paulette/Jennifer at 909-983-0713.



The Forestry and Fire Recruitment Program (FFRP) is a nonprofit organization that provides career support to formerly incarcerated firefighters and those currently incarcerated in California's Conservation Camps; who are interested in careers in the Wildland and Forestry sector. FFRP was developed in direct response to the growing need for wildfire-related personnel. Our mission is to increase wildfire personnel from non-traditional and underrepresented communities, providing them the training, skills, resources, and experiences needed to secure gainful employment.

We believe that individuals who have been or are currently incarcerated in state correctional Conservation Camps "Fire Camps" should have the opportunities and support needed to attain gainful employment in the sector once home. Doing so provides our communities a tangible way to address the ever-growing threat of wildfires while supporting formerly incarcerated firefighters as they navigate reentry.

FFRP is a network of formerly incarcerated firefighters. During pre-release, FFRP participants gain important information and resources needed for successful career planning. During post-release, FFRP participants receive critical job coaching, on-the-job training, paid work opportunities, and ongoing professional development. FFRP strives to ensure formerly incarcerated firefighters have the support needed to find long-term career success once released from state correctional Conservation Camps. For more info visit, or call (626) 600-9505



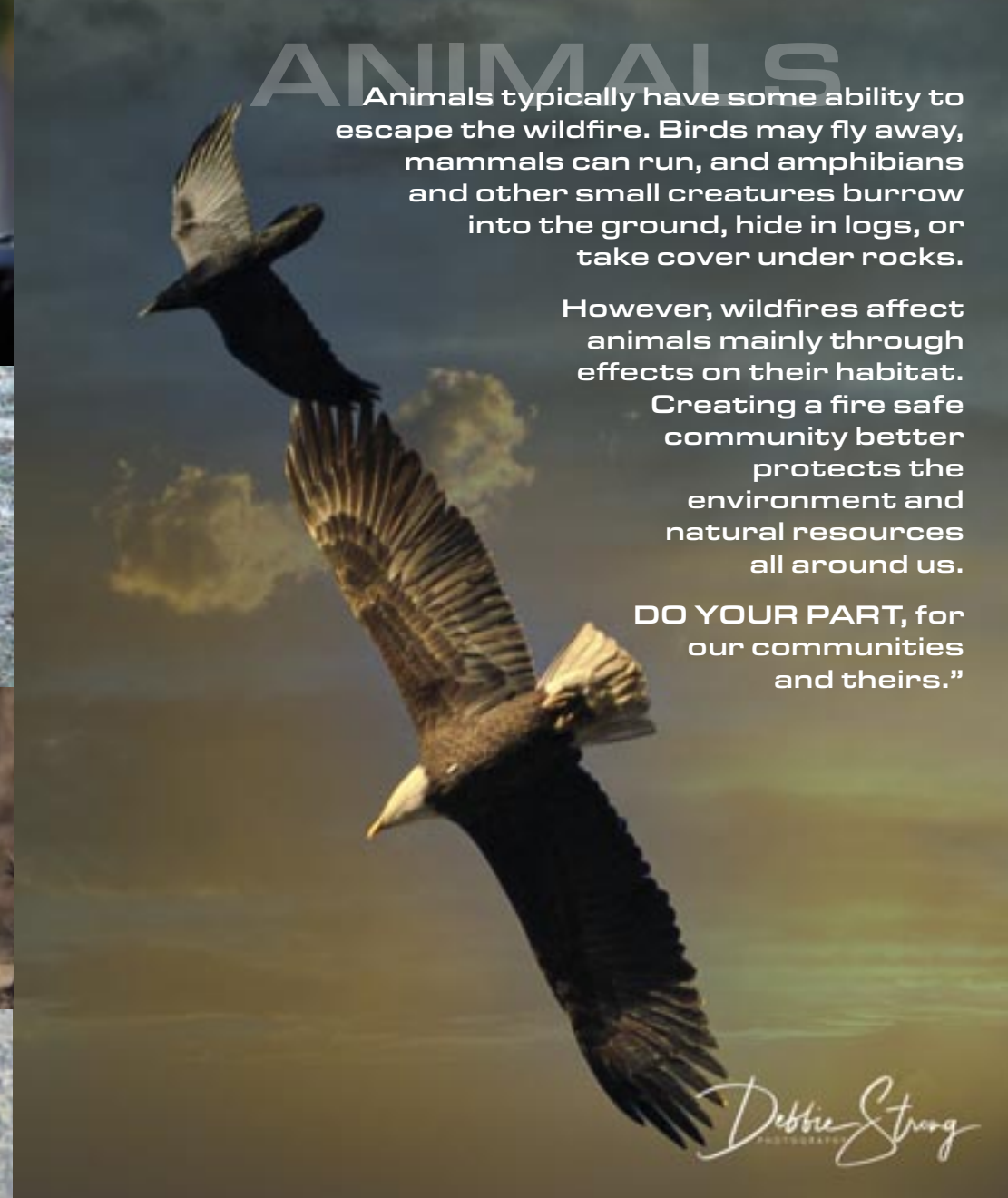
The Forestry Challenge is an academic event for high school students in technical forestry and current forestry topics. Participants spend four days in the forest learning about the ecology and management of the forested landscapes that provide communities with water, recreational opportunities, wood products, and wildlife habitat. Youth benefit by better understanding the relationship of the forested environment to their community, by exposure to natural resource management as a potential career option, and by undertaking a rigorous critical thinking exercise that is timely and addresses current forestry topics such as wildfire, insects, and forest health. The 2021 San Bernardino Forestry Challenge will be from November 10 to 13 at Green Valley Lake Christian Camp. If you know a high school student who is interested in participating, please fill out an information request found at <http://forestrychallenge.org>.

# ANIMALS

Animals typically have some ability to escape the wildfire. Birds may fly away, mammals can run, and amphibians and other small creatures burrow into the ground, hide in logs, or take cover under rocks.

However, wildfires affect animals mainly through effects on their habitat. Creating a fire safe community better protects the environment and natural resources all around us.

DO YOUR PART, for our communities and theirs.”





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[www.FireSafeNOW.org](http://www.FireSafeNOW.org)