Ready, Set, Go!

GET SET: Red Flag Warning

Powered by the IAFC

What is a Red Flag Warning?

A Red Flag Warning is issued by the National Weather Service when low humidity, warm temperatures, dry fuels and strong winds could combine to produce extreme fire behavior that is either occurring or will occur within 24 hours. These are some of the criteria* considered prior to issuing a Red Flag Warning:

- Sustained wind speeds averaging 15 mph or greater
- Relative humidity of 25% or less
- Temperature over 75 degrees F
- Ten hour fuel moisture at 8% or less for one day

**specific weather criteria can vary by region*

During a Red Flag Warning you should **ALWAYS** follow the instructions provided by your local fire department and be prepared to take action if a fire develops in your area.

Red Flag Warning Safety Tips

Equipment

- Avoid using lawn mowers on dry vegetation.
- Follow all local fire restrictions on the use of chainsaws, mowers and other equipment during high risk times.

Outdoor Fires

- Be mindful of any burn bans in your area and obtain a permit if needed.
- Extinguish outdoor fires properly, never leave them unattended. Always drown them with plenty of water.
- Soak ashes and charcoal in water and dispose of them in a metal can. These materials can re-ignite days after a fire or BBQ is extinguished.
- Report unattended outdoor fires immediately to 911.

Property

- Keep your lawn green and mowed all season.
- Create at least 100 feet of defensible space around your home by removing leaves, weeds, brush, firewood and other flammables. Make sure to clean roof and gutters too.
- Make sure access roads to your property are cleared and properly labeled.

Vehicles

- Do not throw cigarettes or matches out of a vehicle. They can ignite grass on the side of the road and start a wildfire.
- Do not pull your vehicle over in dry grass.
- Ensure that trailer chains don't drag on the ground.

Set

Always Maintain Situational Awareness

Watch weather reports and make sure you are signed up for state and local emergency alerts.

During a warning, your local fire department can:

- Send text alerts, post information on social media and notify media outlets.
- Suspend open burning.
- Increase staffing and patrol highly vulnerable areas.
- Staff reserve equipment.
- Discuss allied resources with community stakeholders.
- Change fire threat signs to extreme.

For more information, **contact your local fire department.**

The Ready, Set, Go! Program seeks to share information with residents on what they can do to successfully prepare for a wildland fire. Residents are encouraged to be "Ready" by taking personal responsibility for their themselves, their family and their property, to be "Set" with situational awareness and to "Go" and act early. Speak with your local fire department about your area's threat for wildland fire and learn more about the wildland urban interface (WUI).

Ready, Set, Go!

Wildland Fire Action Plan

Ready (Before the warning occurs)

- Create at least 100 feet of defensible space around your home. Clear flammable vegetation by trimming trees and removing pine needles and leaves from roofs, eaves and gutters. Box in vents with 1/8th inch metal mesh to block embers.
- Complete and practice your Personal Wildland Fire Action Plan.
- Become familiar with area roads, including all exit routes from your immediate area.
- Make a plan to accommodate animals or pets in case of wildfire or evacuation.
- Sign up with local agencies to receive emergency notifications.

Set (During the warning)

- Maintain good situational awareness by following weather reports and the news from your local media outlets.
- Have your “Go” kit packed and near your door in case you need to evacuate quickly. Suggested items to pack include:
  - Your Personal Wildland Fire Action Plan.
  - Prescription medications and any medical devices you may need.
  - Emergency first-aid supplies.
  - Important documents including your passport, birth certificate, driver’s license, marriage license, insurance policy and any other legal documents.
  - Pet medications.
  - Personal electronics including cell phone, laptops and any charging cables you may need.
  - A week’s worth of clothing and two pairs of shoes.
- Make sure your car is fueled and parked right outside your house so you can leave quickly.

Go! (Act early when a wildfire threatens)

- Get your ‘”Go” kit and leave well before the threat approaches, following an accessible exit route.
- Use your personal action plan for guidance.
- Cooperate with local authorities during evacuation & re-entry processes.

Remember: An evacuation can occur anytime, day or night.
Be prepared you can evacuate quickly and safely.

www.wildlandfirersg.org

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