Ready, Set, Go! Safety Checklist

Prepare you and your family:
- Create a wildland fire Action Plan, visit www.wildlandfireRSG.org.
- Know your evacuation routes.
- Keep emergency supply kits on ranch and in personal vehicles.

Prepare your property:
- Ensure your address is clearly marked and visible from the street.
- Establish and maintain firebreaks around your pastures and structures.
- Create defensible space around all structures.
- Clearly mark water tanks, ponds, and other water supplies available for fire department use.
- Reinforce bridges to ensure that fire engines or bulldozers are supported.

Prepare your livestock:
- Create a livestock relocation/evacuation plan.
- Ensure proper registration and branding of livestock.
- Establish a contingency plan for feeding livestock if grazing land is destroyed.

Set (As the fire approaches)
- Monitor local radio or television stations for weather updates.
- Load vehicles with emergency supplies and valuables.
- Alert family and workers of any changes in the situation.
- Turn on irrigation.
- Open gates so livestock can escape and to give access to firefighters.
- Relocate livestock.
- Close all doors and windows and turn on all lights in homes, barns, and other structures.
- Shut off propane tanks.

Go! (Act early)
- Leave early enough to avoid being caught in the fire.

If you are trapped or unable to evacuate:
- Call 9-1-1 immediately.
- Wear long sleeves and pants made of natural fibers, such as cotton. Boots, gloves, hats, goggles, and bandanas are also helpful against smoke and embers.
- Stay hydrated.
- Patrol your property for fires.
- Take refuge inside a structure, away from outside walls.
- Place wet towels under doors to keep smoke and embers out.

Defensible Space
Greatly increases your safety and reduces fire damage!

Defensible space is a buffer zone created by the removal of weeds, brush and other natural vegetation between structures and the wildland urban interface (WUI). Creating defensible space can decrease fire damage to structures and allow space for firefighting operations.

Unmanaged vegetation between and around homes, farms, or livestock structures increase the risk of wildland fire spreading. Pro-fire planning, fuel management and sufficient fuel breaks allow firefighters the space they need to fight wildland fires.

Contact your local Fire Department today!

Become a fire-adapted community!
Learn how you can make a difference and protect yourself and community! Visit www.lafc.org/FAC or www.fireadapted.org to learn more about Fire Adapted Communities and simple actions you can take to be more safe!
Defensible space can be created by removing vegetation that is next to or near resources at risk. In addition, the impact on assets can be reduced by using fuel breaks, strategic grazing, and landscaping plans with non-combustible materials and fire-resistant plants.

Special attention can also be given to wind-driven embers that are carried ahead of the flaming fire front. These embers have the potential to be carried both short (100-200 ft.) and long distances (~1 mile) depending on daily wind conditions. Embers that land in orchards, on roofs, and in feed or fuel storage facilities can start destructive fires.

Orchards & Groves

Fruit trees are susceptible to damage from wildland fires in two ways: crop damage and long-term damage from burned trees. A wildland fire driven by wind can rapidly overtake an orchard, destroying both fruit and trees in the process.

Activating irrigation systems can be extremely effective in preventing a fire from spreading into a grove. For best results, the systems should be activated well ahead of the arrival of the fire to ensure leaf litter is thoroughly soaked. High winds may cause power companies to shut off power in certain areas, so it is critical to soak the leaf litter while there is still power to the pumps.

However, the best method to prevent an advancing wildland fire from reaching an orchard or grove is to create defensible space. This allows firefighters to use water, backfires, bulldozers or other methods from reaching the property.

To prepare for a wildland fire, farmers and ranchers should:
- Remove leaf litter around tree trunks.
- Create defensible spaces around the orchard.
- Have spare gate keys, combinations and property maps available for firefighters.
- Clearly mark water tanks, ponds and other water supplies available for fire department use.
- Clearly mark roads that firefighters might have to use.
- Apply sprinkler water for as long as possible.

Row Crops

Damage from wildland fire is typically minor in row crops. But, because many row crops are in close proximity to natural vegetation, farm workers, buildings and equipment could be in danger. Farmers should take defensible space precautions around the farm house and other structures.

To prepare for a wildland fire, farmers and ranchers should:
- Store farm supplies safely.
- Create a safe zone clear of vegetation for equipment.
- Have spare gate keys, combinations, and property maps available for firefighters.
- Clearly mark all storage areas used for chemicals.
- Create an evacuation plan for all farm workers.

Livestock & Rangeland Operations

It is often impossible for many ranchers to evacuate their livestock due to the number of animals they have on their property. As a result, ranchers should consider establishing relatively safe havens for their animals through rotational grazing. Intensive-managed grazing near ranch houses, barns or equipment areas can provide defensible space for those assets and create an area where livestock can be better protected from the main body of the fire.

To prepare for a wildland fire, farmers and ranchers should:
- Know fire history and typical fire behavior of the area.
- Establish and maintain firebreaks around pastures.
- Create defensible space around all structures.
- Clear vegetation around fuel tanks.
- Create a livestock evacuation plan.
- Ensure proper registration and branding of livestock.
- Have spare keys, combinations, and property maps available for firefighters.
- Clearly mark water tanks, ponds, and other water supplies available for fire department use.

If a wildfire is approaching, livestock operators should:
- Open and unlock gates so livestock can escape flames.
- Evacuate animals (saddle horses, breeding stock, etc.).
- Close all doors and windows in barns and other structures.
- Shut off propane tanks.

Moving livestock to previously grazed areas will help protect them against an advancing wildland fire by acting as a defensible space.

Wildfire can come fairly close to your property. By creating defensible space, you can reduce your chances of damage.