



Adventist Risk
Management, Inc.

HOW TO **NOT** FUEL **WILDFIRES**

Every year millions of acres of land are scorched by wildfires. The best way to stop or slow down a wildfire from destroying your property is to prepare your property to repel fire ahead of time.



DRIVEWAYS

Your facility's driveway is how firefighting personnel will get to your property, so make it readily accessible for them by doing the following:

- 1 Keep metal road and address signs highly visible and clear of foliage.
- 2 Make your entryway at least 12 feet (4 meters) wide, or 20 feet (6 meters) if your driveway is more than 150 feet (46 meters) long.
- 3 Make your driveway a solid driving surface and ensure all culverts and bridges can accommodate heavy fire trucks or other vehicles.
- 4 Have at least two ways traffic can enter and exit your property.



LANDSCAPING AND PROPERTY

Divide your property into three defensible zones.



0–30 feet around any buildings

Maximum Hazard Reduction

- Remove outdoor furniture, brush, mulch, stacks of firewood and anything that can burn. Replace mulch with rock, gravel, or stone.
- Clean rain gutters and roof free of leaves and debris.
- Keep grass short (3 inches, 7.5 cm, or less), watered and mowed.
- Clear a 10-foot (3 meters) space around any propane tanks. Fill this space with gravel, rock, or short, well-watered grass.



30–100 feet from any buildings

Reduce Fuels

- Replace fire-prone evergreen trees with more fire-retardant plants. Hardwood, maple, poplar and cherry trees are less flammable than pine.
- Prune tree limbs to a height of 6–10 feet (2–3 meters).
- Space trees so crowns are 10–16 feet (3.5 meters) apart.



100 feet to edge of property

Continue Fuel Reduction

- Prune and space trees.
- Remove any dead trees, piles of brush, or anything that will fuel a wildfire from your property.





BUILDINGS

Flying embers ignite more than half of the structures destroyed by wildfires. Prepare buildings inside and out to withstand embers and combat fire.



**Sign up for
wildfire
notification alerts
in your area.**

- 1 Install sprinkler systems in all buildings. While sprinklers cannot prevent a fire, they can help extinguish a fire when detected.
- 2 Install smoke detectors in all buildings and test them regularly as part of your seasonal maintenance plan.
- 3 Make sure all building exits are accessible and marked.
- 4 Replace, repair, or plug any areas that could allow burning embers into a building, such as loose or missing roof tiles, gaps along roof edges, soffits, and vents. Vents and soffits can be covered with 1/8 inch (3 mm) or smaller metal wire mesh to keep flying embers out.
- 5 Use solid flame-resistant sheeting to enclose foundations, outbuildings, and trailers to prevent flying embers from sliding in underneath.
- 6 Store flammable items such as gasoline, paint and solvents in approved safety containers in a fire resistant metal or brick building away from other structures.

PRACTICE WILDFIRE SAFETY

Contact local officials to find out if you are in a high wildfire risk area and if there are specific guidelines to follow. Find out what wildfire notification systems are in place in your area and sign up for these alerts. If you see a wildfire, contact 911 immediately. Emergency personnel may not know the fire exists. Monitor the situation and evacuate right away, if advised to do so.



BEFORE EVACUATION

Have an evacuation plan in place that includes how you will communicate evacuation details with your constituents and evacuate any staff or children under your care. Practice the plan and be ready to go at a moment's notice.

Before leaving your property:

- 1 Shut off the gas at the meter and turn off propane tanks and air conditioning.
- 2 Seal attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or commercial seals.
- 3 Connect garden hoses to outside water sources for use by firefighters. Fill water buckets and place them around the outside of all buildings.
- 4 Don't leave sprinklers or water running. Water usage can affect critical water pressure used to put out the fire elsewhere.
- 5 **DO** leave lights on, which will assist firefighters in finding your buildings easily.



Interfering with firefighters is illegal and can result in substantial fines.

A WORD ON DRONES

Do not fly drones over wildfires. Flying drones over wildfires interferes with firefighting equipment and can cause severe damage if your drone collides with a firefighting aircraft. Interfering with firefighters is illegal and can result in substantial fines.

HAVE A BACKUP PLAN

Sometimes the best prevention cannot stop a loss. Make sure all your buildings and property are insured so you can rebuild if a wildfire destroys your facilities.

Learn more about Building and Property Insurance from Adventist Risk Management,® Inc. at AdventistRisk.org.

REPORT YOUR CLAIM RIGHT AWAY

1.888.951.4276 • CLAIMS@ADVENTISTRISK.ORG

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