

# Ready, Set, Go!



## Saving Lives and Property through Advanced Planning

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**T**he fire season is a year-round reality, requiring firefighters and residents to be ready for the threat of wildland fire.

Each year, wildland fires consume hundreds of homes in the **Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)**. Studies show that as many as 80 percent of the homes lost to wildland fires could have been saved if their owners had followed simple fire-safe practices. In addition, wildland fire related deaths occur because people wait too long to leave their home.

Your fire department takes every precaution to help protect you and your property from wildland fire. However, in a major wildland fire event, there may simply not be enough fire resources or firefighters to defend every home.

Successfully preparing for a wildland fire enables you to **take personal responsibility for protecting yourself, your family, and your property**. In this Action Guide, we provide tips and tools you need to prepare for a wildland fire threat; have situational awareness when a fire starts; and to act early as directed by local officials.

The **Ready, Set, Go (RSG)!** Program works in collaboration with existing wildland fire public education efforts. RSG is brought to you in partnership with the fire service, and amplifies the common goal we all share of wildland fire preparedness.

A **Fire Adapted Community (FAC)** is a community of local residents, fire and emergency responders, business owners, builders, civic groups and leaders who take steps to increase their safety and become prepared for the threat of wildland fire. FAC helps to create a collaborative community-wide effort, where all parties are involved in successfully adapting to their wildland fire challenge. To learn more visit [www.iafc.org/FAC](http://www.iafc.org/FAC) for resources and information.

**You are a key leader** to creating change. You and the members of your community can take simple steps to increase your wildland fire preparedness. Your knowledge and actions may empower others to follow your lead, increasing their safety and potentially decreasing property loss and damage. Being prepared for a wildland fire event is vital during an fire, as responder resources can be spread thin. Taking advanced personal action can result in **improved safety for all involved**.

Fire is, and always has been, a natural occurrence in the wildland. Hills, canyons and forests burned periodically long before homes were built. Wildland fires are fueled by a build-up of dry vegetation and driven by seasonal hot-dry-winds, which are extremely dangerous and difficult to control. Many people have built homes in the Wildland Urban Interface and landscaped **without fully understanding the impact a fire may have on their lives**. Few have adequately prepared their families for a timely evacuation in the event of a wildland fire.

It is not a question of **if**, but **when**, the next major wildland fire will occur. Through advance planning, understanding and preparation, we can all be partners in the wildland fire solution. The tips on the following pages are designed to help create awareness and a safer environment for you, your family and firefighters.