



Wildfire Preparedness

Audience: General, ESRD Community

What is a Wildfire?



A wildfire is an uncontrolled fire in an area of combustible vegetation that occurs in the countryside or a wilderness area. Every year, wildfires burn across the U.S., and more and more people are living where wildfires are a real risk.

A wildfire is usually started by lightning, lava, or people. Some wildfires ignited naturally may be monitored, contained, or extinguished.

Wildfire Classification

There are three different classes of wildfires:

- ◇ A “surface fire” is the most common type and burns along the floor of a wildland, moving slowly and killing or damaging plants.
- ◇ A “ground fire” can burn anytime the surface burns and the subsurface organic material is dry enough to burn. They may be started by lightning and burns on or below the surface floor in the humus layer down to the mineral soil.
- ◇ “Crown fires” spread rapidly by wind and move quickly by jumping along the tops of the trees.

Wildfire Hazards

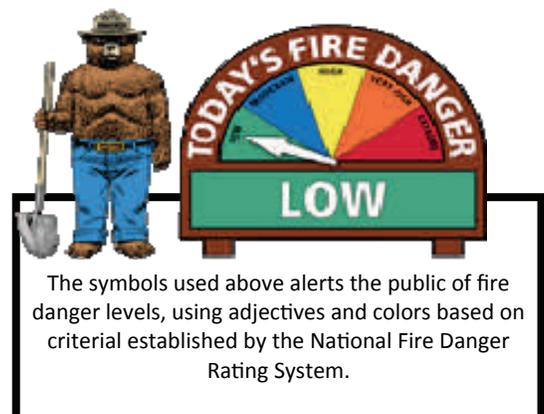
- ◇ Most noticeable risks include loss of wild lands and destruction of property
- ◇ Dust, carbon monoxide, and other toxic chemicals in wildfire smoke present significant health risks
- ◇ Fires can destroy buildings, communities, and cause wide-area utility outages

Before a Wildfire

- ◆ Make a Family Disaster Plan
- ◆ Make a Go-Kit and stock up on emergency supplies
- ◆ Find the nearest shelter and prepare evacuation routes
- ◆ Ready your car by ensuring a full tank of gas
- ◆ Ready your home by removing brush and debris around structures
- ◆ Be ready to turn off utilities

Wildfire in Your Area

- ◇ Check for wild fire updates
- ◇ Heed all evacuation orders
- ◇ Listen and watch for air quality reports and health warnings about smoke
- ◇ Be ready to leave at a moment’s notice



Additional Information

<http://www.ready.gov/wildfires>
<http://kcercoalition.com/kcer-home/hazards/natural-events/>