



WILDFIRE SAFETY

DID YOU KNOW?

California's 20 largest wildland fires have burned over 2.5 million acres, destroyed 13,710 structures and have killed 68 people. In October 2003, Southern California Wildfires alone burned 750,043 acres, destroyed 3,710 homes and killed 24 people including 1 firefighter. Staying safe during wildfires is your responsibility and one you should take seriously. Your life depends on it!

- ▶ Create a defensible space around your home or business by clearing a 30 to 50 foot wide safety zone. Keep trees and shrubs pruned so vegetation is away from buildings. Remove dead vegetation and dispose of rubbish and debris.
- ▶ Mow your grass regularly.
- ▶ Make sure fire trucks can get to your house and outbuildings in an emergency.
- ▶ Keep your chimney in good condition, and ensure that it has a spark screen.
- ▶ Have enough garden hose to reach all the structures on your property.
- ▶ Keep fire tools (shovels, buckets, rakes, and saws) handy.
- ▶ Have a ladder that can reach your roof.
- ▶ Observe burning bans announced by local government. Don't burn debris outdoors when it is windy and never leave a fire unattended.
- ▶ Soak grill or fireplace ashes in water for a day, before disposing of them.
- ▶ Stack firewood well away from your home and, if possible, uphill of it.
- ▶ As vehicle exhaust systems are often hot enough to ignite a fire, don't drive or park on high grass that is dry.
- ▶ Create and practice an evacuation plan and have an evacuation kit ready at all times.
- ▶ Listen to public safety officials and evacuate immediately if told to do so.

ONTARIO FIRE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
(909) 395-2002
www.ReadyOntario.com

