



DISASTER RECOVERY CORNER

May 3, 2018

**Gail Bertrand, Director of Long Term Recovery,
and Anthony Pluchino, Director of National
Director of Data and IT Management, gather in
Texas to lay out the plans for Texas, Louisiana,
and Florida Disaster Case Management
Programs.**

**Wildfire Preparedness
Vincentians Active in Disaster Recovery
*Faith in Action***



MAY 5TH IS NATIONAL WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS DAY



Each Month FEMA National Readiness establishes training that National VOAD members are encouraged to share with their faith based and non-profit members.

Prepare Your Home

Create and maintain an area approximately 30' away from you home that is free of anything that will burn, such as wood piles, dried leaves, newspapers, brush, and other landscaping that can burn. From 30 feet to 100 feet reduce or replace as much of the most flammable vegetation as possible and prune vegetation, create "fuel breaks," such as driveways, gravel walkways, and lawns. Work with neighbors to create spaces up to 200 feet around your homes where vegetation is thinned to remove underbrush and tall trees do not touch each other for continuous canopies. Regularly clean the roof and gutters.

Connect garden hoses long enough to reach any area of the home and fill garbage cans, tubs, or other large containers with water. Review your homeowner's insurance policy and also prepare/update a list of your home's contents. Designate a room that can be closed off from outside air. Close all doors and windows. Set up a portable air cleaner to keep indoor pollution levels low when smoky conditions exist.



5th Anniversary!

**WILDFIRE COMMUNITY
PREPAREDNESS DAY**

Saturday, May 5, 2018

Sponsored by State Farm

NFPA |



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Wildfires

This page explains what actions to take if you receive a fire weather watch alert from the National Weather Service for your local area and what to do before, during, and after a wildfire.

Know your risk

Wildfires can occur anywhere and can destroy homes, businesses, infrastructure, natural resources, and agriculture. For more information, download the How to Prepare for a Wildfire guide, which provides the basics of wildfires, explains how to protect yourself and your property, and details the steps to take now so that you can act quickly when you, your home, or your business is in danger.

What

A wildfire is an unplanned, unwanted fire burning in a natural area, such as a forest, grassland, or prairie. As building development expands into these areas, homes and businesses may be situated in or near areas susceptible to wildfires. This is called the wildland urban interface.

Wildfires can cause death or injury to people and animals, damage or destroy structures, and disrupt community services including transportation, gas, power, communications, and other services. The impact may cover large areas with extensive burning, embers traveling more than a mile away from the wildfire itself, and smoke causing health issues for people far away from the fire. Wildfires damage watersheds leave areas prone to flooding and mudslides for many years.

Where

Wildfires can occur anywhere in the country. They can start in remote wilderness areas, in national parks, or even in your back yard. Wildfires can start from natural causes, such as lightning, but most are caused by humans, either accidentally—from cigarettes, campfires, or outdoor burning—or intentionally.

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Fire Weather Watch

Fire weather watch = dangerous fire weather conditions are possible over the next 12 to 72 hours

Steps to Take

- Turn on your TV/radio. You'll get the latest weather updates and emergency instructions.
- Know where to go. If you are ordered to evacuate, know the route to take and have plan of where you will go. Check-in with your friends and family.
- Keep your car fueled, in good condition, and stocked with emergency supplies and a change of clothes.

Make a Wildfire Plan

Know your wildfire risk.

Familiarize yourself with local emergency plans. Know where to go and how to get there should you need to evacuate. Make a wildfire emergency plan including an evacuation plan and a communication plan.

Many communities have text or email alerting systems for emergency notifications. To find out what alerts are available in your area, search the Internet with your town, city, or county name and the word "alerts."

Build or restock your emergency preparedness kit, including a flashlight, batteries, cash and first aid supplies, medications and updated asthma action plan. Stay tuned to your phone alerts, TV, or radio, for weather updates, emergency instructions or evacuation orders. Pay attention to air quality alerts. For people with asthma, heart or lung disease, follow your doctor's advice. Everyone should stay inside if there are high levels of smoke.



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During a Wildfire

- If there is a wildfire in the area, be ready to evacuate on short notice.
- If you see a wildfire and haven't received evacuation orders yet, call 9-1-1. Don't assume that someone else has already called.
- If ordered to evacuate during a wildfire, do it immediately- make sure and tell someone where you are going and when you have arrived.
- If you or someone you are with has been burned, call 9-1-1 or seek help immediately; cool and cover burns to reduce chance of further injury or infection.
- If you are not ordered to evacuate but smoky conditions exist, stay inside in a safe location or go to a community building where smoke levels are lower.





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After a Wildfire

Returning Home

- Return home only when authorities say it is safe.
- For several hours after the fire, maintain a "fire watch." Check and re-check for smoke, sparks or hidden embers throughout the house, including the roof and the attic.
- Use caution when entering burned areas as hazards may still exist, including hot spots, which can flare up without warning. Evacuate immediately if you smell smoke.

Cleaning Your Home

- Wear a NIOSH certified-respirator (dust mask) and wet debris down to minimize breathing dust particles.
- Discard any food that has been exposed to heat, smoke or soot.
- Do NOT use water that you think may be contaminated to wash dishes, brush teeth, prepare food, wash hands, or to make ice or baby formula.
- Photograph damage to your property for insurance purposes.





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Shareables

[Wildfire Information Sheet \(PDF\)](#)

[Cloud of Smoke \(video\)](#)

[Fires and Your Health \(link\)](#)

[Fires Current Conditions \(link\)](#)

[When the fire starts \(video\)](#)

[United States Fire Administration \(link\)](#)

[Smokey Bear \(link\)](#)

[United States Forest Service \(link\)](#)

[American Red Cross \(link\)](#)

[NFPA's Firewise USA \(link\)](#)

[Fire Adapted Community \(link\)](#)

[How to Prepare for a Wildfire \(PDF\)](#)

[Wildfire Playbook \(PDF\)](#)



MORE ON PREPAREDNESS

Each Month FEMA National Readiness establishes training that National VOAD members are encouraged to share with their faith based and non-profit members.



WEATHER THE STORM
DOWNLOAD THE FEMA APP

Find a American Red Cross Shelter Near You:

<http://www.redcross.org/get-help/disaster-relief-and-recovery-services/find-an-open-shelter>

What to Pack if You go to a Shelter:

Emergencies can happen suddenly and you may not have time to pack. Your safety is most important - grab your loved ones and get out of harm's way! However if you do have time to pack, please consider these tips.

Do Bring:

- Bedding
- Clothing
- Medications
- Your child's stuffed animal,
- Blanket or other "lovey"
- Your emergency kit

Don't Bring:

- Alcoholic beverages
- Illegal drugs
- Weapons

Red Cross Mobile Apps Found Here: <http://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/mobile-apps>

The image shows a smartphone displaying the FEMA app interface. The screen shows a blue header with the FEMA logo and the time 1:36 PM. Below the header are several menu items: "Weather Alerts" (red button), "Prepare" (green button), "Disaster Resources" (blue button), "Submit Disaster Photos" (blue button), "Contenido en español" (grey button), and "How To Help" (grey button). At the bottom, there is a "Blog" section with a post titled "Supporting Disaster Communications from Space".

Four callouts with icons point to specific features of the app:

- Lightning bolt icon:** Receive alerts from the National Weather Service for up to five locations.
- Green checkmark icon:** Get safety reminders, read tips to survive natural disasters, and customize your emergency checklist.
- Blue plus sign icon:** Locate open shelters and where to talk to FEMA in person (or on the phone).
- Blue camera icon:** Upload and share your disaster photos to help first responders.

FOR MORE INFORMATION



Please consider supporting our mission by donating your time, providing financial support, and/or becoming active in your local community on disaster preparedness and recovery as a Vincentian.

Please stop by our newly updated website: www.svdpcdisaster.org

An online store and training resources will soon be available exclusively for Vincentians active in disaster recovery.

Follow us on Twitter: @svdpcusadisaster

Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/DisasterServicesCorp/

Follow us on LinkedIn: Disaster Services Corporation, SVDP-USA

Brooke Newton, Deputy Director: bnewton@svdpcdisaster.org

For those of you interested in volunteering, please stop by our website at www.svdpcdisaster.org and click on the volunteer button at the top right corner. It will take you to a webform to complete. This information will help us gain better insight on you and be able to better pair you with what we have open and available to volunteer with. We will set up a one on one phone call shortly after the form has been completed.

As a reminder, we cannot continue all these great works without your help. Please consider donating to the general disaster fund at www.svdpcdisaster.org to keep our programs running so that we can in turn support those who have been impacted by disaster here in the United States.

