

NBSIA Member Services Safety Bulletin

March 2019

WILDFIRES: PLAN, PROTECT, RESPOND

Wildfires are becoming increasingly larger and more intense each year, according to the USDA Forest Service. Don't wait until it's too late, plan now to prevent future fires.

Protect and Prepare

- Maintain a clear space of *at least* 100-200 feet between structures and natural growth.
- If your school is on a hill, extend the zone on the downhill slide. Fire spreads rapidly uphill.
- Keep outside storage of flammable liquids, gases, and hazardous materials *at least* 100 feet from the building. Maintain them within a fire rated safety storage locker.
- Consider exterior mounted fire sprinklers to protect the roof, walls and windows of the buildings.
- Cover vents with wire mesh, to deter flaming debris from entering.
- Have emergency/fire department telephone numbers readily available.
- Maintain building accessibility for fire department equipment.

Respond

- Know where to go and what to bring with you.
- Plan escape routes, both out of the building, and off the property.
- Account for all staff and students prior to, during, and after evacuation.
- **Practice the evacuation plan.**

In the event of a fire, if safe to do so, take last minute mitigation measures such as:

- Close vents, windows, doors, and blinds.
- Close all doors inside the building to prevent draft.



- Shut off all sources of natural gas, propane or fuel oil supplies.
- Put automatic doors on manual in case power outages occur.
- Follow disaster plan/emergency shut down practices. This includes equipment, machines, HVAC and other building systems.

Resources

More information about fire recovery, including fact sheets and printables, can be found in OSHA's Wildfire Response/Recovery at <https://www.osha.gov/dts/wildfires/response.html>

For air quality updates go to <https://airnow.gov>

Contact your local fire department, forestry office, emergency management office and building department for information about local fire laws, building codes and prevention measures. Obtain local building codes and weed abatement ordinances for structures built near wooded areas.

Sources

"Wildfires: Planning Ahead." Risk Control - Risk Management & Training | Travelers Insurance, Travelers, riskcontrol.travelers.com/mytrc/library/business-continuity/natural-disaster-planning/wildfire-preparedness.



Contact Us

(707) 428-1830
www.nbsia.org
MemberServices@nbsia.org