

2018 Nevada Wildfire Awareness Month Talking Points

Wildfire can threaten Nevadan communities any time of the year. Some examples of fires that occurred throughout the year include:

- The Washoe Drive Fire in Pleasant/Washoe Valley where 29 homes were lost in January 2012;
- The Hayland Fire in Spring Creek which threatened 20 homes in April 2012;
- The Carpenter 1 Fire in Mount Charleston which threatened 400 homes in July 2013;
- and the Caughlin Fire in Reno where 29 homes were lost in November 2011.

In response, representatives of Nevada's local, state, and federal firefighting agencies; wildfire prone communities; and University of Nevada Cooperative Extension have conducted a wildfire awareness campaign every May since 2006. This year, our message is "**Prepare Now! Wildfire knows no season.**"

Some tips to help you prepare year round include:

- Winter is the perfect time to complete a home inventory, prepare an evacuation plan for you and your household, and prepare a to-go bag.
- Spring is when you can begin working on your defensible space clean-up, check structures for any needed improvements to prevent ember entry, and practice a family evacuation.
- Summertime is a good time to connect with your neighbors to encourage community projects to help reduce the wildfire threat, maintain your defensible space, and register your home and cell phones for your local emergency response system (often called reverse 9-1-1).
- Fall provides the opportunity to check areas where burning embers might accumulate on your property during a wildfire. The places where the leaves pile up also tend to be where embers would too during a wildfire. Remove any

easily ignited materials such as dried grass from around these areas, and clean out leaves, needles and debris from your rain gutters.

During the month of May and all year long, we encourage you to prepare now because wildfire knows no season. Learn more ways to get prepared at LivingWithFire.info or talk to your local fire service representative.