

2019 Nevada Wildfire Awareness Month Talking Points

Wildfire can threaten Nevadan communities and impact homes, property and human life. The key to minimizing the wildfire impact in Nevada is proactive communities that take steps to prepare.

Some examples of ways communities can prepare for wildfire are:

- Ensure homes have the appropriate home construction and maintenance to resist ignition from embers;
- Ensure proper defensible space, or proper management of landscaping and vegetation around your home;
- Ensure well-designed fuelbreaks and safe areas exist to protect the community;
- Ensure that residents practice evacuation from their homes and communities;
- Ensure good access in and out of their community for emergency responders.

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 **“Wildfires Happen. Is Your Community Prepared?”**

Some tips to help you prepare your home and community include:

- Consider replacing wood-shake or shingle roofs with a Class-A Fire-resistant type such as composition, metal or tile.
- Keep the first five feet away from your home free of combustible materials such as wood, mulch, dried leaves, pine needles and flammable shrubs such as sagebrush and juniper. Instead, plant flowers, succulents, lawn or groundcover, or use rock mulches, concrete, brick and pavers.

- Designate a “Safe Area” in your community where people can go to wait out the wildfire. Examples include: ball fields, irrigated pastures, parks and parking lots.
- Pack a Go Bag that is easily accessible and filled with items necessary to help you quickly and safely evacuate your home.
- Ensure your home’s address is readily visible using reflective, non-combustible material with characters being at least 4 inches high.

During the month of May and all year long, we encourage your community to prepare for wildfire. Learn more ways to get prepared at LivingWithFire.info or talk to your local fire service representative.