

# Wildfires are KILLERS.

## *Safety should be your first and foremost concern*

Wildfires can strike and spread quickly, sometimes with little warning, and can change direction with the wind.

1. **If a wildfire is in the area: BE ALERT.** Obtain up-to-date information about the fire. Watch and listen for emergency information and alerts.
  - Subscribe to the Summit County Alert System: [www.SCAAlert.org](http://www.SCAAlert.org)
  - Listen to Krystal FM Radio 93.9 in emergencies
  - Consult Summit County's website: [www.co.summit.co.us/emergencyblog](http://www.co.summit.co.us/emergencyblog)
  - Follow directives issued by the authorities
  
2. **Prepare for evacuation.**
  - Know your escape route from your home down the mountain to Highway 9 by car and by foot. In many cases, there is only one road down. If that road becomes blocked or impassable, you must evacuate by foot. Choose a route away from the fire and watch for changes in the fire's direction. (See map on reverse side.)
  - Prepare a "go bag" and keep it in your vehicle during wildfire season with essentials such as medicines, toiletries, backup power/chargers for your communication devices, important phone numbers, insurance policy numbers (in case cell phones don't work or your battery dies), and a change of clothing, etc.
  - If evacuation is a possibility, keep pets within your control. Bring them inside. Pack food, medicine and a toy.
  - If you have a horse on property near the forest, bring the horse to the stable and meadows or another location with lower risk before the animal gets stressed.
  - If you have time, close all windows and doors (interior doors, too).
  - If you know how, shut off pilot lights, propane and natural gas.
  - Pack irreplaceable items in your vehicle: such as computers, important papers, one-of-a-kind or sentimental items. If you have more than one vehicle, consider moving the vehicle containing the irreplaceable items to a less at-risk location (like the Target parking lot) before an evacuation becomes necessary.
  
3. **Evacuate early. If a wildfire is nearby,** do not wait for an evacuation order, pack up, take you pet(s), and drive down the mountain to a safer location.
  - **If you are under a wildfire warning or evacuation order: get to safety right away. Do not delay. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. Keep calm and do not drive recklessly.**
  - **If possible, post a note on your front door informing firefighters that you have evacuated.**
  - **If you are trapped, call 9-1-1 and give your location. Be forewarned: emergency response could take time or be impossible. Survival tips are enumerated on page 9 of Ready, Set, Go! (see next paragraph)**
  - **For a detailed discussion, see: <https://summitfire.org/205/Wildfire-Planning-Tips> and <https://summitfire.org/DocumentCenter/View/401/Ready-Set-Go---Your-Personal-Wildfire-Action-Plan-PDF>**

Of course, the best time to prepare for a wildfire is when there is no emergency. Always maintain the defensible space around your home and clear the remainder of your property of deadwood. Make digital copies of important papers and irreplaceable photographs and, if possible, store them off site. Prepare and maintain a list of those things that you'd want to take with you in an evacuation.

**Prevent Forest Fires. Comply with fire restrictions at all times.** Be aware of forest fire warning levels and fire restrictions posted along Highway 9. Smokers, take care with lighted cigarettes/cigars, even when the area looks safe.

