

# ***2023 Wildfire Season is upon us!***



## **DON'T WAIT FOR WILDFIRES TO START: – PREPARE AND BE AWARE**

***Did you know?*** On average, humans are responsible for starting more than half of Arizona's annual wildfires!

Preparedness is key for wildfire prevention.

Residents should start cleaning up their yards and removing debris from around their property, including the rooftops, to protect their homes.

It is also imperative for people to sign up for emergency alerts through their county's Emergency Management Office. Be aware; do not wait until you see smoke in the air.

Remember, access to fireworks for Fourth of July is right around the corner.

[Gov. Hobbs and Arizona fire officials discuss wildfire season preparations](#)

**In general:** Wildfire danger in Arizona is expected to be high this year following a wet winter that aided in increasing desert vegetation growth.

**Hidden Valley Homeowners Association and FireWise** remind residents that there are simple, best practices that can help mitigate fires and what steps you can take to prepare for a wildfire:

- **If you believe you see a wildfire/smoke, call 911 immediately!** Reporting the fire as quickly as possible can assist with containment and extinguishing.
- Create a defensible space around your home by clearing 30 to 100 feet of vegetation, such as trimming overgrown bushes and removing brush, dead branches, or any branches touching the ground.
- Register with [Pima County Office of Emergency Management](#) to enable receiving emergency notifications pushed to your phone.
- Connect with your local emergency management, sheriff's office, and public health department on **social media** to keep up to date on local news, weather watches and warnings, and public health recommendations.
- Make a family evacuation and communication plan that includes family phone numbers, out-of-town contacts, and family meeting locations.
- For families with members that are **disabled, special needs, or elderly**, refer to [THIS LINK at Ready.Gov](#).
- Build an emergency to-go kit with enough food, water, and other necessary items for at least 72 hours. Start with the **Five P's**:
  - [People and pets - and supplies for both](#)
  - [Prescriptions](#)
  - [Papers](#)
  - [Personal needs](#)
  - [Priceless items](#).
- **Don't forget about your pets during emergencies!**  
Here are some additional links with tips.
  - [Pet Disaster Preparedness & Recovery | American Red Cross](#)
  - [Prepare Your Pets for Disasters | Ready.gov](#)
  - [Disaster Preparedness | ASPCA](#)

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