



Wildfire & Crisis Emergency Response Guide 2022

Wildfire Preparedness

- 1. Track the fires:**
 - Check out [New York Times' Fire Map and Tracker for the Western United States](#).
 - Californians can also look to [CAL FIRE for more details on active fires and containment efforts](#).
- 2. Sign up for updates:**
 - [Subscribe to alerts from your local agencies with help from Nixie](#).
 - Californians can also [sign up for CAL FIRE Wildfire Alerts](#) and [California wireless emergency alerts](#).
- 3. Prepare your Emergency Supply Kit:**
 - Take a look at [American Red Cross advice for an Emergency Supply Kit](#).
- 4. Have a Wildfire Action Plan:**
 - Start with this [guide for creating your Wildfire Action Plan](#) or [check out SF Chronicle's Survival Guide for advice on how to survive any emergency](#).
- 5. Help your neighbors:**
 - In many cases, [donated clothes, supplies, and food ends up creating more work](#) for aid workers and local governments to sort through and much of it ends up in the landfill. Wildfire victims don't need your old stuff. Cash is best. You can donate to local relief funds or funds geared toward impacted communities and areas.
- 6. Returning home:**
 - Before returning home from a fire-impacted area, [check out this Returning Home Checklist](#).
 - Californians can see road closures and travel restrictions on this [CalTrans map](#). Click on the "QuickMap Options" tab on the upper left, click on "Road Conditions," and select "full closures" or other conditions you would like to view.
- 7. Protecting against future fires:**
 - If you live in a wildfire-prone region, [check out these resources on home-hardening and making your home more fire resistant](#) or [this guide on Preparing Your Home from University of California Cooperative Extension](#).



Smoke and Air Pollution

1. Understand your risk:

- [Exposure to wildfire smoke and pollution may disproportionately impact](#) children, pregnant women, older adults, outdoor workers, people with underlying respiratory or cardiovascular conditions; socioeconomically disadvantaged populations.

2. Check air pollution levels in your community:

- [PurpleAir provides neighborhood-level air quality reporting](#)
 - NOTE: Click on the "none" drop down menu in the map data layer and select "LRAPA" for a true reading. ([This article has more info](#)).
- [AirNow also has an interactive map with Air Quality Index information.](#)
- You can also [sign up for Spare The Air air quality alerts in your community.](#)

3. Stay inside:

- If air quality is at an [unhealthy level \(150 PM2.5 or higher\)](#) or you smell smoke, stay indoors with windows and doors closed.
- [Install a high-quality air filter in the HVAC system with a minimum efficiency reporting value \(MERV\) rating of 13 or higher.](#)
 - OR [portable HEPA filter air purifier](#)
 - OR [make a DIY version with a box fan and air filter](#)

4. Wear a mask:

- N95 masks offer the most protection against wildfire smoke. KN95 masks also work well. Cloth masks are better than no mask, but aren't able to efficiently filter out tiny hazardous particles found in smoke. [Read more about how your COVID masks can protect you from wildfire smoke.](#)



Power Blackouts

1. **Sign up for alerts from your local utility company:**
 - [PG&E Alerts](#)
 - [Southern California Edison Alerts](#)
 - [San Diego Gas & Electric Alerts](#)
 - [Colorado Xcel Energy Alerts](#)
 - [Public Service Company of New Mexico Alerts](#)
2. **Get a back-up charger for your devices:**
 - [This guide has top-rated USB power banks for phones and tablets.](#)
3. **Prepare ahead of time:**
 - [Check out these tips from the New York Times on how to prepare](#) (e.g. plan for medical needs, like medication that needs refrigeration, and things to do ahead of time, like learn how to manually open your garage door, if you have one).
 - [Don't forget that emergency kit!](#)
4. **If you rely on power for medical needs:**
 - Talk to your doctor in advance about how to prepare with medications or mobility needs.
 - If possible, you may want to stay with a family member or friend who has power.
 - Some utilities have programs, for example [PG&E's medical baseline program](#), for people with life-assisting medical devices, which can qualify you for lower rates and provide you with additional advance notification.
5. **Help conserve power & stay cool:**
 - [Check out these tips on conserving power and staying cool without upping your electricity bill during a heatwave.](#)
6. **What to do during a shutoff:**
 - Unplug or turn off any appliances to prevent damage from surges when the power is restored.
 - Keep the fridge and freezer closed as much as possible or use coolers with ice
 - Check in on neighbors, especially those who may need assistance.
 - [This guide has more tips for how to prepare and what to do during a power blackout.](#)
7. **After the shutoffs:**
 - If you experience a loss due to extended power outages (e.g. the food in your fridge went bad), you can often [file a claim with the utility company.](#)