



WILDFIRE

the local scoop

FIRE SEASON is from April to July—the hotter, dryer months in Los Alamos County. Fire conditions arise from a combination of high temperatures, low moisture content in the air and fuel, accumulation of vegetation, and high winds. Geography, vegetation patterns, and the ponderosa pine ecosystem combine to create a widespread **WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE (WUI)**. Due to interlacing neighborhoods and forest, extensive and winding canyon rims, and frequent lightning strikes and high winds, the entire community lies within the WUI. Ninety percent of the County is **UNDEVELOPED LAND**, and any location is a potential source for a fire that moves into the urban area.

More than **5,000 FIRES** have been mapped in the Jemez range since 1909. Since 1977, three fires have burned more than 5,000 acres; the largest fire, **LAS CONCHAS**, burned more than 126,500 acres in 2011.

LIKELIHOOD OF FUTURE OCCURRENCES: High. Wildfire threat increases as human development and population increase in the WUI.

BEFORE:

- Regularly clean your **ROOF** and **GUTTERS**.
- Maintain an area approximately **30 FEET AWAY** from your home that is free of anything that will burn, such as woodpiles and dried leaves.
- Connect **GARDEN HOSES** long enough to reach any area of the home.
- Review your **HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE POLICY** and prepare/update a list of your home's contents.
- Know where to go in case of an **EVACUATION**. Plan a route and a destination.
- Keep your **CAR** fueled, in good condition, and stocked with emergency supplies and a change of clothes in case of an evacuation.
- Make a **FAMILY COMMUNICATION PLAN** in case your family is not together when the wildfire occurs. Decide how you will contact one another and how you will get back together.

DURING:

- If you see a wildfire and haven't received evacuation orders yet, **CALL 911**. Don't assume someone else has already called.
- Monitor **LOCAL NEWS** and social media for the latest updates.
- If ordered to evacuate, do so **IMMEDIATELY**. Make sure to tell someone where you are going and when you have arrived.
- If you or someone you're with has been **BURNED**, call 911; cool and cover burns to reduce the risk of further injury or infection.

AFTER:

- **RETURN HOME** only when authorities say it's safe.
- Stay tuned to local media and social media for **EMERGENCY INFORMATION** and updates.

For more, please visit losalamosnm.us/emo/pages/fireandfloodbulletins.aspx
or losalamosnm.us/emo/pages/wildfiresdefensible.aspx



- For several hours after the fire, maintain a **FIRE WATCH**. Check and re-check for smoke, sparks, or hidden embers on your property, including your roof and attic.
- Use caution when entering burned areas as hazards—such as **HOT SPOTS**, which can flare up without warning—might still exist. Evacuate immediately if you smell smoke.
- **PHOTOGRAPH DAMAGE** to your property for insurance purposes.
- To clean your home, wear a dust mask and **WET DOWN DEBRIS** to minimize breathing dust particles.
- Discard **FOOD** that has been exposed to heat, smoke, or soot.
- Do not use **WATER** that you think might be contaminated to wash dishes, brush teeth, prepare food, etc.
- Restock your **EMERGENCY SUPPLIES** and reevaluate your family plan to be ready in case another fire hits.



FIRE DANGER TODAY

