

# Prepare for Wildfire: Stay Safe and Ready

## Prepared Together, Resilient Together.

### 01 Stay Informed



**Sign up for Emergency Alerts** including: 1) Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs) and 2) Emergency Alert System (EAS) by following these instructions ([English](#), [Spanish](#)). The **Current Smoke Outlook for WNC** is [here](#). **Google Maps** offers active wildfire alerts [here](#).

You can also purchase a NOAA Weather Radio to receive updates (for [example](#)).

### Prepare Your Family 02

- **Establish a family emergency communications plan**, consider medical conditions and pets. ([English](#), [Spanish](#))
- **Pack a “Go Bag”**: Include medications, documents, cash, first-aid, a flashlight, and 3 days of food and water. ([English](#), [Spanish](#))
- **Create a Wildfire Action Plan**. ([English](#), [Spanish](#))
- **Keep N-95 or P-100 masks** for smoke protection if going outside. ([English](#), [Spanish](#))



### 03 Prepare Your Home & Yard



- **Prepare the inside and outside of your home**. Clear leaves and other flammable materials. ([English](#), [Spanish](#))
- **Install the right number of smoke alarms**, test monthly, and change batteries at least once a year.
- If you have air conditioning, change your filter regularly. **Filters labeled MERV 13 or higher** are most effective for removing smoke particles. A portable HEPA air cleaner is also helpful.
- **Make your own box fan air filter** for wildfire smoke. DIY Air Cleaner Designs using MERV 13+ ([English](#), [Spanish](#); [English video](#), [Spanish video](#)).

### Protect Yourself During A Wildfire 04

If you smell smoke or see ash due to a wildfire, here are ways to limit your exposure ([English](#), [Spanish](#)):

- Stay indoors with windows and doors closed or find alternate shelter.
- Avoid using a whole-house fan or a swamp cooler with outside air intake.
- Avoid strenuous physical activity outdoors.
- If you go outdoors, keep it brief and wear a N-95 or P-100 mask.
- Run your A/C if you have one, change your filter often (MERV 13+), or use a portable HEPA air purifier.
- Avoid wood-burning appliances, including fireplaces, and combustion sources like candles and incense.

### 05 Mental Health Support



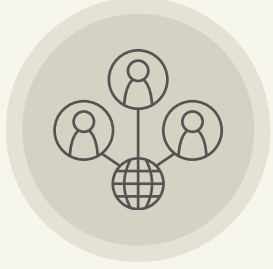
**Psychological First Aid** can help [parents](#) and [schools](#) support mental well-being during crisis. For additional assistance, the **988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline** offers free, 24/7 confidential support for mental health issues, suicide thoughts, and substance use concerns. You can call or text **988**, or visit [988lifeline.org](#) for help.

### Resources 06

Visit the **NC Forest Service** website to see a map of all wildfires, including their size and containment. ([English](#))

Follow these links for information specific to where you live:

Buncombe County ([English](#), [Spanish](#))  
Polk County ([English](#))  
Henderson County ([English](#))  
Transylvania County ([English](#))  
Haywood County ([English](#)).



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