

Preparing for an Approaching Wildland Fire

The following checklist will assist you in protecting your property and the lives of your family.

- Evacuate, if possible, all family members not essential to protecting the house, as well as all pets.
- Assign tasks to all family members that will be assisting with protecting the house. These should all be assigned and practiced, if possible, prior to an event.
- Contact a friend or relative outside the Gallatin County area and relay your plans.
- Arrange a meeting place and make sure family members are aware of its location
- Tune into a local radio station and listen for instructions and updates. 9307 fm 1090 am
- Place vehicles in the garage, have them pointing out, and roll up windows.
- Place valuable papers and mementoes in the car.
- Close the garage door, but leave it unlocked. If you have an electric garage door, disconnect it so that the door can be opened manually.
- Place combustible patio furniture in the house or garage.
- Shut off propane at the tank.
- Wear only cotton or wool clothes. Proper attire includes long pants, long sleeved shirt or jacket and boots. Carry gloves, a handkerchief to cover your face, water to drink, and goggles.
- Close all exterior vents. Seal attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or commercial seals.
- Prop a ladder against the house so fire fighters have easy access to the roof.
- Make sure that all garden hoses are connected to faucets and attach a nozzle set on “spray.”
- Soak rags, towels or small rugs with water to use in beating out embers or small fires.
- Inside, fill bathtubs, sinks and other containers with water. Outside, do the same with garbage cans and buckets. Remember that the water heater and toilet tank are available sources of water.
- Close all exterior doors, vents, windows and draw all Venetian blinds, shutters or non-combustible window coverings and heavy drapes.
- Remove lightweight and/or non-fire resistant curtains and other combustible materials from around windows.
- Attach pre-cut plywood panels to the exterior side of windows and glass doors.
- Close all interior doors.
- Open the fire place damper, but place the screen over the hearth to prevent sparks and embers from entering the house.
- Leave a light on in each room to increase the visibility of your home in heavy smoke.
- Turn off all pilot lights.
- Move overstuffed furniture (e.g. couches, easy chairs, etc.) to the center of the room.
- Continually check the roof and attic for embers, smoke, or fire.
- Gather fire tools, such as rakes, shovels, hoses, ladders and hoes.

Most importantly, STAY CALM!