

# WILDFIRE IS COMING

Wildfire Impacts and Community Preparedness Guide



## Lessons Learned for Park County

Wildfire impacts a community in ways people likely don't expect until they've experienced it themselves.

The 2017 Montana fire season brought to life those impacts for many communities and now we have an opportunity to use that hindsight to become better prepared for future severe fire seasons in Park County.

### Living with Fire in a FireSafe Montana

Our ability to live more safely in a fire environment depends on actions taken before a wildfire occurs to increase likelihood of safety for human lives and homes. It is important to remember that there are no guarantees when wildfires meet extreme conditions.

### Wildfire Severity Factors

Montana Forests have changed over the last several decades leading to more severe and intense fires.

#### Forest Factors include:

- More numerous trees and build up of fuels
- Insect and disease outbreaks killing and weakening tree
- Severe droughts and warmer temperatures

*"The solution to Montana's wildfire situation is to create communities that can survive wildfire. Montana must learn to live with fire."*

- Firesafe Montana Guide

Sign up to receive text message alerts and emergency information.

nixle

Text your zip code to 888777



Community Public Information Meeting in Seeley Lake, MT Sept, 2017

## Inside

- Wildfire Impacts
- Personal Action to Protect Your Home and Family
- FireWise Strategies to Keep Your Home Defensible
- Best Information Sources
- Community Preparedness
- Contacts

# Wildfire Impacts



## Costs:

**Fire Suppression** — State and Federal budget impacts and deficits

**Rebuilding Private and Public Infrastructure**— Homes, outbuildings, landscaping, road/ trail signs, bridges, culverts , power lines, utilities

**Fire Suppression Damage Repair**— Fire line repair and restoration, tree planting, weed spraying, road grading and repair, flood mitigation, soil erosion control, sediment removal, watershed restoration

**Revenue Losses to Business**— Reduced demand in tourism/ recreation, mandatory evacuations, aid relief, depreciated property values, lost fisheries, Wildlife, timber resources, increased insurance premiums

**Health and Safety Prevention**— Air filters, relocation housing and supplies, medical response

**Increased Demand on City and County Services**—Fire response and management, evacuation enforcement, public information and education and health department, reduced property taxes

## Health Risks:

**Smoke-Related Health Complications**— Kids, seniors, those with lung, blood, immune conditions, pregnant women

**Stress of Being Displaced**— From home, work, routine, school, community

**Stress of Cultural Heritage Loss**— Hiking /hunting grounds

**Financial Stress**—Evacuation loss of work and housing, replacing damaged property and belongings

**Fear and Blame**— Leading to longer recovery

## Property Damage:

**Trail Head Burning/ Destruction**

**Public Road Damage**

**Livestock and Forage Loss**

**Habitat Damage and Wildlife Loss**

**Erosion/ Flooding**

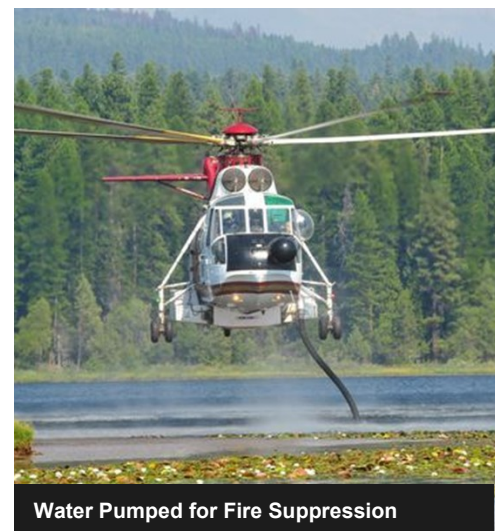
**Stream Sediment Impacting Fish Habitat**

**Reduced Stream Flow**— Water use for fire suppression

**Recreationalist Risk**— Unsafe snags and weak burnt trees

**Invasive Weed Introduction and Spread**—Firelines

**Reduced Trail and Public Access**— Public land closures



Water Pumped for Fire Suppression

When you feel threatened...  
**EVACUATE!**

Here's a list of what to take with you:

### PERSONALS

Meds/ vitamins  
Eyeglasses  
Credit cards & cash  
Copies of important docs  
Bank Account files  
Financial documents  
Tax file  
Mortgage/Loan files  
Medical files  
Favorite Recipes file  
Hard drive/video tape of home inventory  
Passwords list  
Phone books  
Laptops/ plugs & mouse  
Hard drives/ thumb drives  
Extra car keys  
Valuables  
Irreplaceable memorabilia  
Pictures & videos  
First Aid kit  
Portable radio/ extra batteries  
Flashlight/ headlamp  
Chargers  
Camera equipment  
Snacks & water  
Sturdy shoes  
Extra blankets

### PETS

Beds  
Harnesses/ leashes  
Water/ food bowls  
Kibbles, canned food  
Meds

### CLOTHES

Pants  
Shirts  
Sweatshirts, sweaters  
Underwear/ socks  
Shoes  
Hiking boots/ socks  
Hats  
Jackets  
Gloves  
Toiletries

# Prepare and Stay Safe

Successfully preparing for a wildfire enables you to take personal responsibility for protecting yourself, your family and your property.

## PLAN

### Plans

**Create a Wildfire Action Plan**— To Do Lists, Communication Plans and Evacuation Plans <http://www.readyforwildfire.org/>

**Identify Family Meeting Places and Safe Zones** — Contact Park County Emergency Services for Planning Assistance **406-222-4190**

## KNOW

### Protect Your Health

**Know Your Risk**—High Smoke Risk: Asthmatics, adults over 65, kids ages 0-5, pregnant women, those with heart, lung or circulatory system disease.

**Prepare** with 72-Hr medication supply, limit smoke exposure, follow health care provider recommendations

**Use HEPA Filters**— Purchase air filters to reduce smoke inhalation

**Evacuate Your Family, Pets and Livestock Early**

### Get the Best Information

**Sign Up For Nixle**—Receive emergency phone and text messages and alerts <https://local.nixle.com/signup/widget/i/2585/>

**Best Source of Wildfire Information**— <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/>

**DEQ Air Quality Report**— <http://deq.mt.gov/air/fireupdates>

**Montana Fire Preparedness Information**— <http://firesafemt.org/>

## ACT

### Firewise: Understand and Practice Principles

**Remove Flammable Debris from Siding, Decks, and Porches**

**Limit Flammable Vegetation Around Home**—Leaves, branches, wood piles <https://firewise.org>

**Incorporate Fire Resistant Construction** — Fire-rated construction materials, landscaping, building location and design



# Land Use Planning Tools That Reduce Wildfire Risk

**Landscaping Regulations** require property owners to manage hazardous vegetation and maintain their properties.

**Watershed Management Plans** reduce wildfire through fuel treatments, protecting vital water resources.

**Forest Management Projects** reduce fuels within the wildland-urban interface (WUI).

**Building Codes** require ignition-resistant construction materials for new developments and retrofits.

**Land Preservation Tools** encourage agricultural lands to buffer development from wildfires.

**Steep Slope Ordinances** restrict development within high wildfire-risk areas.

**Land Use and Development Codes** incentivize developers to plan open space and recreational trails, creating fuel breaks.

**Subdivision Design Standards** require risk reduction features, such as minimum road widths, secondary access, and adequate water supply.

**Local Governments** support fire adapted communities through good land use planning.



Community Planning Assistance For Wildfire Graphic

<https://planningforwildfire.org/>

## Contact Us!

Emergency Management 406.222.4190

Health Department 406.222.4145

Wilsall Rural Fire #3  
406.578.2095

Clyde Park Rural Fire #2  
406.220.0015

Clyde Park City Fire & EMS  
406.686.4719

Park County #1  
406.222.0562

Livingston Fire & Rescue  
406.222.2061

Paradise Valley Fire & EMS  
406.333.4357

Gardiner Fire & Ambulance  
406.848.7350

Cooke City Fire & EMS  
406.838.2185

<http://www.parkcounty.org/Government-Departments/Disaster-Emergency-SVCS/>