

## READY SET GO GUIDE

Ready Set Go is a National Fire Protection Association program designed for residents who live in the wildland urban interface and that are at risk from wildfire. Living in the wildland requires more self-reliance than living in urban areas. Planning ahead and taking actions to reduce fire hazards can save lives and property. Ready Set Go program works with the Firewise Communities Program, NFPA, FEMA, USFS, Insurance institute for Business and Home Safety and the Department of the Interior. The program consists of three sections, each suggesting steps to take to be prepared for a wildfire. Successfully preparing for a wildland fire enables you to take personal responsibility for protecting yourself, your family and your property.

### Ready

**Ready** begins with a preparing a house that firefighters can defend. Firefighters need **defensible space** to protect your home. Defensible space is the recommended space between structures and the wildland area that, under normal conditions, creates a buffer zone. A **Hardened Home** will give you the best chance to survive a wildland fire. Measures you can take to safeguard your home include: a roof with fire-resistant materials, siding materials that are fire resistant and non combustible fencing. For more information about defensible space and fire resistant materials, visit the Firewise Communities website, [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org) , or [www.csfs.colostate.edu](http://www.csfs.colostate.edu). Create a Family Disaster Plan, prepared in advance of a fire, which includes meeting locations, contacts and communications. Rehearse it regularly. Assemble an emergency supply kit, including a portable radio so you can stay updated during the fire.

### Set

**Set** is situational awareness when a fire threatens. Monitor fire weather conditions and fire status. Evacuate sooner rather than later, as soon as you are set. Alert family and neighbors. Dress in appropriate clothing. Ensure you have your emergency supply kit. For information on emergency supplies, visit the American Red Cross Web site at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org). Stay tuned to your TV or local radio stations for updates or check the fire department Web site. Remain close to your house, drink plenty of water, and keep an eye on your family and pets until you are ready to leave. Have an **Inside Checklist**, to accomplish if time allows. Shut all windows and doors, leaving them unlocked. Remove flammable window shades and curtains, and move flammable furniture to the center of the room, away from windows and doors. Turn off propane tanks and pilot lights. Leave your interior and exterior lights on so firefighters can see your house under smoky conditions. Have an **Outside Checklist**, to complete if time allows. Gather up flammable items from the exterior of the house and bring them inside (e.g. patio furniture, children's toys, door mats, etc.) Back your car into the driveway, shut doors and roll up windows. Have a ladder available. Seal attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or commercial seal if time permits. Patrol your property and extinguish all small fires until you leave. More information is available at [www.wildlandfireRSG.org](http://www.wildlandfireRSG.org).

## Go

**Go** is leaving early, giving your family the best chance of surviving a wildland fire. You also help firefighters by keeping roads clear of congestion, enabling them to move more freely and do their job in a safer environment. Don't wait to be told by authorities to leave. Leave early enough to avoid being caught in fire, smoke or road congestion. In an intense wildland fire they may not have time to knock on every door. If you are advised to leave, don't hesitate. Take your emergency supply kit containing your family and pet's necessary items. Choose an escape route away from the fire to a predetermined location. For more information on Ready Set Go visit [www.wildlandfireRSG.org](http://www.wildlandfireRSG.org)

Every Wildland Urban Interface resident must understand the basic characteristic of wildfire and the risk it presents to their lives and property. The actions we take by building appropriate structures and properly caring for the surrounding environment can significantly reduce wildfire hazards. These collective actions empower all residents to be safer in our forest environment.