



Protect Yourself From Wildfires

After a wildfire, safety is a priority. Remain cautious of unstable structures, smoke and ash exposure, and hazardous air quality.

Best Practices to Reduce Exposures



1

Follow evacuation orders, wait for official clearance from local authorities to return, and stay updated on emergency announcements (evacuation routes, road closures, recovery resources).



2

Assess the air quality and wear the proper protective gear (N-95 or P-100 respirator mask, goggles, gloves, long-sleeved shirts, pants, and shoes to protect your eyes and skin).



3

Inspect your water supply and keep an eye out for boil water notices and water safety alerts in your area. Wildfires can contaminate water sources with chemicals, ash, and debris.



4

Clean surfaces by mopping, HEPA vacuuming, and damp dusting to remove potentially harmful gases.



5

Take care of your mental health, seek support from loved ones and community groups.

Protect Yourself in Areas With Ash

Take precautions when cleaning up ash from wildfires, which can contain harmful chemicals and residue from burned materials.



-  1 Wear a tight-fitting N-95 or P-100 respirator mask, goggles, gloves, and long-sleeve clothing to avoid inhaling ash or getting it on your skin
-  2 When air quality improves, ventilate the area by opening windows and doors
-  3 Before you start cleaning, check the area for any dangerous debris (broken glass, exposed wires, unstable walls)
-  4 Dry Ash Cleaning: Use a HEPA-filter equipped vacuum or gently wipe it up with a damp cloth. Avoid sweeping and using leaf blowers.
-  5 Wet Ash Cleaning: Use a spray bottle with water and lightly mist area. Wipe the surface gently with a damp cloth. Avoid scrubbing too hard.
-  6 Collect ash into a plastic bag and throw out in the regular trash

Additional Resources



[Air Quality Alerts](#)



[DIY Air Filter](#)



[Watch Duty App](#)