

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

The National Weather Service (NWS) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issues notices when weather conditions such as strong wind, low relative humidity, and high temperatures make wildfires more likely. During these dangerous periods, NWS urges everyone to use extreme caution because a simple spark can cause a major wildfire.

Watches, warnings, and evacuation notices are science-based predictions that are intended to provide adequate time for evacuation. Individuals who delay leaving may find themselves trapped. Download the *Be Smart. Know Your Alerts and Warnings* document at www.ready.gov/prepare for a summary of available notifications.

FIRE WEATHER WATCH

NWS issues a **fire weather watch** when potentially dangerous fire weather conditions are possible over the next 12 to 72 hours.

FIRE WEATHER/ RED FLAG WARNING

NWS issues a **fire weather warning** or **red flag** when fire danger exists and weather patterns that support wildfires are either occurring or expected to occur within 24 hours. Authorities may issue a fire weather watch before a warning, but a warning may also be the initial notification.

Your community may also use the National Fire Danger Rating System to provide a daily estimate of the fire danger (i.e., low, moderate, high, very high, and extreme). For more information, visit: www.fs.usda.gov/detail/inyo/home/?cid=stelprdb5173311.

EVACUATION NOTICE

If the danger is imminent, local authorities may issue an evacuation notice to alert residents that a fire is nearby and it is important to leave the area. Evacuation orders vary by state and community and may range from voluntary to mandatory. When authorities issue a mandatory evacuation notice, leave the area immediately.

PROTECT YOURSELF BEFORE A WILDFIRE

TAKE ACTION NOW!

Protecting yourself today means having sources for information, preparing your home or workplace, developing an emergency communications plan, and knowing what to do when a wildfire is approaching your home or community. Taking action today can save lives and property.

KNOW

Know how to stay informed. Receiving timely information about weather conditions or other emergency events can make all the difference in knowing when to take action to be safe.

- Monitor the weather reports provided by your local news radio and TV stations.
- Many communities have text or email alerting systems for emergency notifications. To find out what alerts are available in your area, do an Internet search with your town, city, or county name and the word "alerts."