



COALITIONS & COLLABORATIVES

AFTER THE FLAMES QUICK GUIDE: IMMEDIATE ACTIONS DURING A WILDFIRE

Coalitions and Collaboratives (COCO) extends its heartfelt support to all individuals and communities affected by the recent wildfires in Los Angeles. We recognize the immense challenges faced during such devastating events and have compiled this guide to provide essential resources and tools for recovery. Our goal is to empower you with actionable steps, reliable information, and connections to support services as you navigate this difficult time. Remember, recovery is a journey, and you are not alone.

Learn more at aftertheflames.com

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS DURING A WILDFIRE

If you have time before Mandatory Evacuation, please review the quick list of actions you can take at the end of the document.

1. Evacuation Readiness

- **FOLLOW EVACUATION ORDERS IMMEDIATELY: DO NOT WAIT TO BE TOLD TWICE.**
Wildfires can move quickly, and delays can be life-threatening.
- Check for alerts and warnings: Use local alert systems, apps, and weather radios to stay updated on fire progress and evacuation routes.
- Prepare to leave
 - Gather essentials in a go-bag, including:
 - Medications, ID, important documents, cash, and phone chargers.
 - Food, water, and clothing for at least three days.
 - First aid kit and personal hygiene items.
 - Wear protective clothing: Long sleeves, pants, sturdy shoes, and an N95 mask to protect against smoke inhalation.
 - Place pets in carriers with leashes, food, water, and any necessary medications.
- Plan and/or know your evacuation route: Identify multiple routes in case the primary one is blocked. Understand the routes that are recommended. Share your plan with family or friends.
- Help neighbors: Check on elderly or disabled neighbors to ensure they have a way to evacuate.

2. Stay Informed

- Register for Emergency Notifications at <https://ready.lacounty.gov/emergency-notifications/>
- Use trusted sources like the [Red Cross Wildfire Safety Guide](#) and local emergency management resources.
- Monitor emergency channels and official social media accounts for real-time updates.



SAFETY AFTER A WILDFIRE

1. Returning Home

- Wait for official clearance: Do not return until authorities confirm it is safe.
- Inspect your surroundings:
 - Look for hazards such as smoldering debris, downed power lines, and weakened structures.
 - Avoid areas with lingering smoke or ash as they may contain harmful toxins.
- Check your home:
 - Ensure the structure is stable before entering.
 - Do not use utilities like gas, electricity, or water until they are inspected and deemed safe.

2. Protect Your Health

- Wear protective gear: Use masks (preferably N95), gloves, and sturdy boots when in burned areas.
- Avoid inhaling ash or smoke: Limit time spent in affected areas and keep windows and vents closed when driving nearby.
- Ensure water safety:
 - If the water supply is compromised, boil water for at least one minute or use bottled water for drinking and cooking.
 - Check local advisories for water safety updates.

3. Document and Replace Vital Records

- Take photos of damage: Document all losses for insurance claims.
- Replace lost documents: Use guidance from [USA.gov](https://www.usa.gov) to replace essential items such as:
 - Birth certificates, Social Security cards, and driver's licenses.
 - Property deeds, insurance policies, and medical records.

4. Financial Recovery Resources

- Access Red Cross financial recovery resources: Visit the [Red Cross Financial Recovery Guide](#) for detailed assistance.
 - Immediate financial assistance: If eligible, the Red Cross may provide direct financial aid to help cover urgent needs like food, shelter, and clothing.
 - Contact your insurance company: File claims as soon as possible and document all interactions.
 - Explore federal assistance: Visit [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.disasterassistance.gov) for FEMA
 - Budget wisely: Use tools and resources from the Red Cross to manage finances during recovery, including prioritizing immediate needs and negotiating with creditors if necessary.
 - Visit LA County Recovers <https://recovery.lacounty.gov>



MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

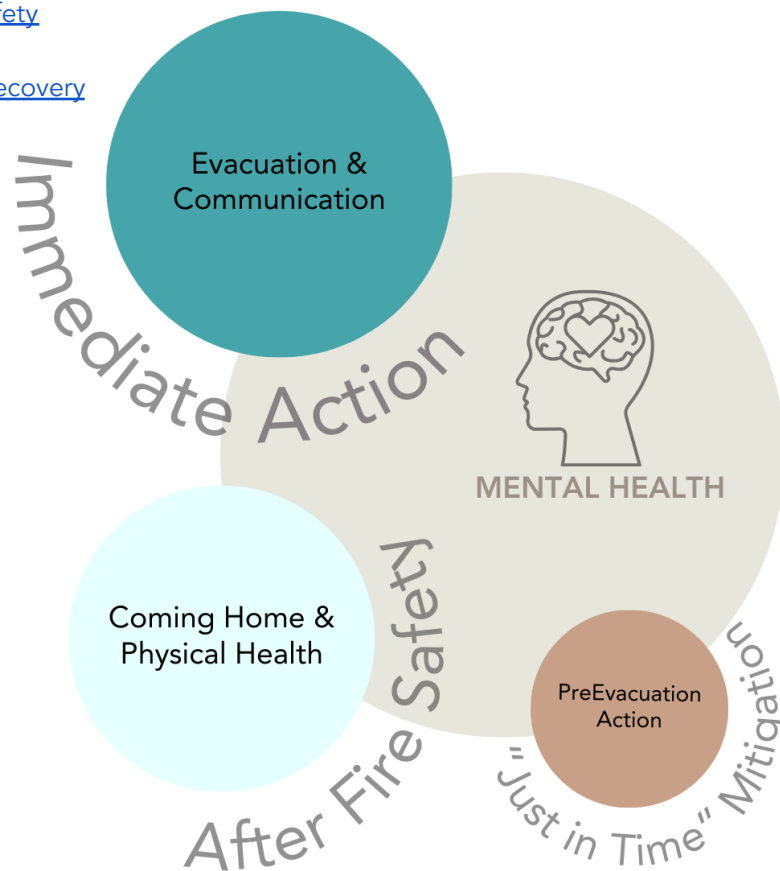
Disasters impact not only physical safety but also emotional well-being. It is essential to address mental health as part of recovery. Below are resources to help you and your family cope:

- Disaster Distress Helpline: Call 1-800-985-5990 or text "TalkWithUs" to 66746 for 24/7 crisis counseling. Visit [SAMHSA Disaster Distress Helpline](#) for more information.
- Coping with Disaster: Access tools and tips at [Ready.gov Coping with Disaster](#).
- Helping Children Cope: FEMA provides a comprehensive guide to support children after disasters. Download it [here](#).
- Local Support Services: Reach out to community centers or faith-based organizations for group counseling and support networks.

Remember, seeking help is a sign of strength, and many resources are available to support your emotional recovery.

For further information and assistance, explore:

- [After the Flames](#)
- [Red Cross Wildfire Safety](#)
- [CDC Wildfire Safety](#)
- [Red Cross Financial Recovery](#)



IMMEDIATE “JUST IN TIME” MITIGATION ACTIONS

If time allows and you are not under evacuation orders and only in the pre-evacuation stage here are some quick actions you can take. To learn more visit

<https://readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/go-evacuation-guide/#preparationsteps>

- Move firewood to at least 100 feet from your home
- Clear your roof and gutters of leaves, pine needles, and debris
- Attach a 100-foot hose to a working outside water faucet
- Enclose the areas under decks, steps, and porches to prevent accumulation of leaves, needles, and debris which could be ignited by embers.
- Install ½ “ metal screening to prevent sparks and embers from getting under the decks, stairways, attic vents, eaves, facias, soffits and foundation vents
- Put flammable items such as lawn, deck and patio furniture, lawn mowers, fuel, vehicles, out of your home’s defensible space (you might put them in the garage)
- Trim tree branches if they overhang your house
- Trim tree branches to at least 10 feet from ground level
- Trim brush along and overhanging driveways or entry roads to provide a 12’ wide by 14’ high access
- Mow, maintain, and irrigate your green lawn 30’ around your home
- Clear deadwood and dense flammable vegetation from your home’s defensible space
- Install highly visible house numbers (at least 4” tall) on your home and assure the address is visible from the street or road.
- Install a metal shield between your home and an attached wood fence. If you don’t have metal shielding, remove a 10’ section of the flammable fence where it attaches to your home and other structures
- Remove conifer shrubs from your home’s defensible space within 30 feet of home.
- Thin and prune trees for 30’ to 100’ around your home.
- Remove conifer shrubs that touch the home.
- Remove combustible mulch from within 10 feet of the structure

