



# WOODSIDE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU  
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(650) 851-1594

[WWW.WOODSIDEFIRE.ORG](http://WWW.WOODSIDEFIRE.ORG)

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## Another Sobering Wake-Up Call

The recent wildfires in Maui have underscored the urgency of being prepared for wildfires and knowing your threat to them wherever you are. As recovery efforts progress, and lessons learned are discovered, we should take this time to take steps to protect our homes, families, and neighborhoods. The devastation left in its wake reminds us that we must be proactive, vigilant, and well-equipped to face the threat of wildfires head-on.

### **Localized Readiness – What we need to know within the Woodside Fire Protection District**

#### **Early Evacuation: A Lifesaving Decision**

A significant lesson so many wildfires is the critical importance of early evacuation. Waiting until the last minute can lead to chaos and danger. When authorities issue evacuation orders, it's crucial to act swiftly to ensure your safety and the safety of your loved ones. Our homes can be rebuilt, but the loss of life cannot be undone. Make sure you are signed up for [SMC Alert](#), this is Woodside Fire's primary emergency notification system.

#### **Vigilance During Red Flag Days**

Preparation is not limited to the moments leading up to a wildfire. Red flag days, characterized by high temperatures, low humidity, and strong winds, create an environment conducive to rapid fire spread. To prevent ignition, avoid activities like outdoor grilling, improper disposal of cigarette butts, and the use of power tools on these days. Being vigilant and cautious can play a pivotal role in preventing fires from igniting in the first place.

#### **Prioritize Safety: *Evacuate without Hesitation***

Your safety and the safety of your neighbors should always be the priority. If you feel unsafe or notice signs of a wildfire approaching, do not hesitate to evacuate. Timely action can be the difference between a safe evacuation and a dangerous situation. Trust your instincts and take the necessary steps to protect your life and those around you.

#### **Utilize WPV-Ready Resources**

Thankfully, we have resources available to help us prepare for wildfires and safeguard our communities. WPV-Ready is a vital organization dedicated to wildfire preparedness, offering a wealth of information and tools to empower residents, and guidelines to help you and your neighbors prepare together. You can find invaluable guidance on at [www.wpv-ready.org](http://www.wpv-ready.org).

**Creating Defensible Spaces:** Maintain a [defensible space](#) around your property to reduce the risk of fire reaching your home. Clearing dead vegetation, trimming trees, and creating fire-resistant landscaping

are crucial steps. Woodside Fire provides free Defensible Space Inspections to help make a plan, call 650-851-1594 to schedule.

**Emergency Kits/Go-Bags:** Assemble comprehensive emergency kits containing essential supplies like food, water, medications, clothing, and important documents. These kits ensure you are well-prepared for evacuation. Have [Go-Bags](#) ready for every member of your household (pets included). Identify an “Evacuation Buddy”. Someone who can grab your Go-Bag if you are not home during an evacuation and vice versa.

**Family Emergency Plans:** Develop a detailed [family emergency plan](#) that outlines meeting points, communication strategies, and evacuation routes. This plan ensures that everyone in your household knows what to do in case of a wildfire. ***If you have school-aged children, know what the school’s emergency protocols are.***

The Maui wildfires serves as a stark reminder to stay prepared. Act swiftly during evacuations (leave early if you feel UNSAFE), stay cautious on red flag days, and use WPV-Ready's resources to enhance your readiness. Let's unite to protect our community from the unpredictable threat of wildfires.