



City of Santa Fe Urges Residents to Take Fire Precautions

SANTA FE, May 14, 2022 — The Santa Fe Fire Department reports that there is no immediate threat of fire to the City of Santa Fe. However, conditions can change rapidly, so the City urges residents to take measures to protect against potential fires, and to prepare for evacuation in case that becomes necessary.

So instead of going camping in the forest or firing up the charcoal grill this weekend, it would be prudent to take care of your property, your family, and your community by taking some basic precautions.

The City website has a new page that provides detailed resources for fire safety and a link to a video briefing by City leadership on fire preparedness.

Find thorough instructions here for creating a [Ready-Set-Go Personal Wildfire Action Plan](#).

Protect Your Home

7 Ways Residents Can Reduce the Risk that their Homes & Property Will Become Fuel for a Wildfire

- #1 Clear**
Clear off pine needles, dead leaves & anything that can burn from your rooflines, gutters, decks, porches, patios & along fence lines. Falling embers will have nothing to burn.
- #2 Store Away**
Store away furniture cushions, ratan mats, potted plants & other decorations from decks, porches & patios. These items catch embers and help ignite your home if you leave them outside.
- #3 Screen & Seal**
Wind-borne embers can get into homes easily through vents & other openings and burn the home from the inside out. Walk around your house to see what openings you can screen or temporarily seal up.
- #4 Rake**
Embers landing in mulch that touches your house, deck or fence is a big fire hazard. Rake out any landscaping mulch to at least five feet away.
- #5 Trim**
Trim back any shrubs or tree branches that come closer than 5 feet to the house and attachments, and any overhanging branches.
- #6 Remove**
Walk around your house and remove anything within 30 feet that could burn, such as woodpiles, spare lumber, vehicles and boats - anything that can act as a large fuel source.
- #7 Close**
If ordered to evacuate, make sure all windows & doors are closed tightly, and seal up any pet doors. Many homes are destroyed by embers entering these openings and burning the house from the inside out.

NFPA NFPA has many more tips and safety recommendations on its websites, including www.firewise.org.

GET READY: Prepare the family and the house. [Follow this link](#) to find 7 ways to reduce the risk that your home and property will become fuel for a fire, by clearing

debris, branches, and outdoor furnishings that could provide fuel, by sealing your house against airborne embers, and basic precautions of that nature.

City residents can call Porfirio Chavarria, the Fire Department's Wildland-Urban Interface Specialist, to request in-person assessments for wildfire hazards around their property; (505) 955-3119.

Pack a Go-Kit and don't forget the 6 P's:

- People and pets;
- Papers, phone numbers and important documents*;
- Prescriptions, vitamins and eyeglasses;
- Pictures and irreplaceable memorabilia;
- Personal computers, hard drives, and disks;
- "Plastic" (credit cards, ATM cards) and cash.

GET SET to leave as fire approaches. Stay informed:

- Alert Santa Fe is the official emergency alert and notification system for the City and County of Santa Fe. [Sign up for Alerts here.](#)
- Learn about fire restrictions and current fires at [NM Fire Info.](#)
- Know where to go in case of evacuation: The NM Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management has put up a [2022 Wildfires website](#) that posts updates of current conditions and threats and provides information for specific fires (including Hermit Peak/Calf Canyon to the east and Cerro Pelado to the west), such as evacuation orders, evacuation centers and shelters, livestock contingencies, road closures, etc.

GO early enough to avoid being caught in fire, smoke, or road congestion. Don't wait to be told by authorities to leave. Have specific plans:

- What to take;
- Where to go;
- How to get there.

PREVENTION MEASURES

FOR NOW, AVOID THE SANTA FE NATIONAL FOREST.

ON WINDY DAYS, DON'T DO ANYTHING THAT COULD CAUSE A FIRE BY SETTING OFF SPARKS: Don't use charcoal grills, fire pits, welding tools, or lawnmowers.

DON'T MAKE CAMPFIRE OR LIGHT FIREWORKS.

DISPOSE OF CIGARETTE BUTTS PROPERLY.

CHECK YOUR VEHICLES: Be sure that chains on RV's/trailers aren't hanging, they spark on roads. If your vehicle is sparking for any reason, don't drive it. Don't park over tall grass, a hot car could set off a fire.

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING THAT LOOKS DANGEROUS, CALL 911.

***PAPERS = IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS:**

Keep these in a waterproof and fireproof container:

- will, insurance policies, contracts, deeds, stocks and bonds;
- bank account numbers;
- inventory of valuables;
- important phone numbers;
- passports, social security cards, immunization records;
- credit card account numbers and companies family records (birth, marriage, and death certificates).

