Washington State Department of Agriculture

2025 Fire season press kit: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

Plan, prepare, and stay alert

WSDA WILDFIRE TOOLKIT

The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) created this toolkit to help agricultural communities prepare for the upcoming wildfire season. By sharing these materials, you can help raise awareness and promote important wildfire preparedness messaging before the season begins!

How you can help:

- Post our suggested content on your social media channels.
- Add our wildfire preparedness tips to your newsletters.
- Share our wildfire preparedness web page: *agr.wa.gov/wildfires*
- Display our poster in offices, barns, and other high-traffic areas.

WHAT'S INSIDE THE TOOLKIT

Table of contents

- Wildfire recovery resources for ag producers
- Post-wildfire animal & livestock support resources
- Insurance & weather alert systems
- Downloadable poster
- Newsletter text for May/June
- Wildfire preparedness checklist
- Social media campaign & slides

If you need tailored messaging, contact:
samira.guirguis@agr.wa.gov | *erin.coyle@agr.wa.gov*

WSDA resources for wildfire and agriculture:
agr.wa.gov/wildfires

WSDA Emergency Management:
agr.wa.gov/services/emergency-management/disasters

WSDA website: *agr.wa.gov*

Email: *emergencymanagement@agr.wa.gov*

WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST

For farmers and ranchers

☐ Emergency Planning

- Create a wildfire evacuation plan for family, workers, and animals.
- Share the plan and contact info with neighbors and employees.
- Post maps showing gates, water sources, and escape routes.

☐ Defensible Space & Fire Breaks

- Clear dry brush, weeds, and dead vegetation around all buildings.
- Maintain at least 100 feet of defensible space around key structures.
- Install or maintain fire breaks around fields, fences, and barns.

☐ Livestock & Animal Readiness

- Identify and prep safe zones for animals to go during a fire.
- Prepare trailers and halters for fast animal transport.
- Mark or tag animals with ID in case of evacuation or escape.

☐ Equipment & Water Sources

- Check that water tanks, pumps, and hoses are ready and working.
- Keep irrigation systems accessible and functional.
- Store fuel, tools, and equipment away from flammable areas.

☐ Communication & Alerts

- Sign up for local fire alerts (text, app, or listen to local radio).
- Keep a battery-powered radio on hand.
- Charge phones and keep emergency contact list updated.

☐ Documents & Emergency Supplies

- Store insurance papers, ID tags, and animal records in a fireproof box.
- Prepare emergency kits for family, workers, and animals.
- Keep extra fuel, batteries, flashlights, and first aid supplies on hand.

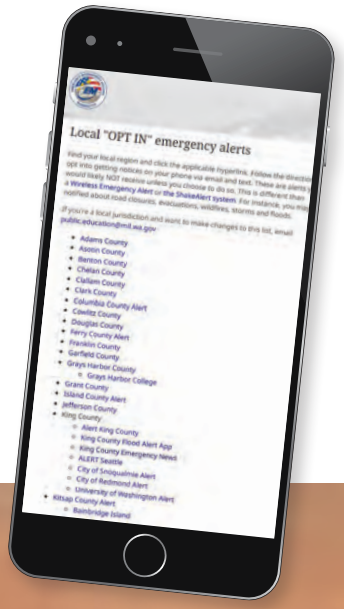
BE PREPARED:

Sign up for wildfire warnings

Sign up today for local and state weather alerts at mil.wa.gov/alerts#local to get the latest updates on wildfire risks in your area.

These alerts provide early warnings when conditions are dangerous or expected to become hazardous due to high temperatures, dry weather, or strong winds.

Staying informed is one of the most important ways you can stay safe during wildfire season.



PROTECT YOUR OPERATION:

Are you insured?

To stay protected, make sure your property and livestock are properly insured.

Register your land and animals with the USDA to qualify for disaster assistance if a wildfire occurs. Visit your local USDA office or visit www.farmers.gov/protection-recovery/wildfire#protectyouroperation for more details.

Make sure you understand exactly what your insurance policy covers. **Review your policy to know what's included, and ask your provider about any gaps in coverage that could leave you vulnerable.**

Reduce fire hazards on properties

Trim weeds around buildings and pastures, use metal fence posts with grounded wires, and check haybale moisture content. Have fire tools like shovels and extinguishers nearby, and use spark arresters on your equipment.

1 MITIGATION

Clear brush
Create a defensible space
Use fire-safe fencing

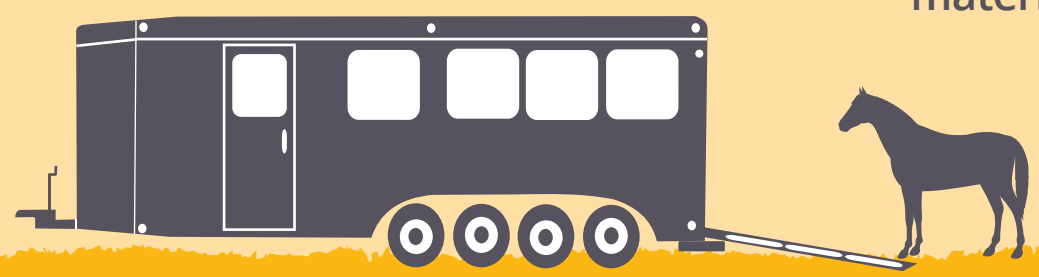
2 PREPARATION

Create evacuation plans
Pack go-bags
Mark water source

3 RESPONSE

Implement your plan
Move animals
Spray structures

At least 30 feet of defensible space around homes, barns, and structures is the minimum to prevent fire spread, with all combustible materials cleared. For better protection, a buffer zone of 100 to 200 feet is more effective.



WILDFIRE RECOVERY RESOURCES

If your farm or ranch has been affected by wildfire, you're not alone—and support is available. Here are key programs that can help you recover:

Local and County Help:

Local emergency management office - Emergency shelters, animal feed, and additional support may be available.

Regional Conservation District Office - Various services and programs to help communities and landowners reduce the risk of wildfires, improve their resilience to fire events, and support recovery.

State Programs:

Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) - Provides guidance and may help connect you with federal aid.

Washington Department of Natural Resources - Post-Fire Recovery Program - Funding and resources for communities to support post-fire recovery activities.

Washington State University - Technical assistance regarding agricultural and forestry wildfire recovery including wildfire recovery.

Regional and Federal Programs:

The American Red Cross - Provides emergency assistance in the immediate aftermath of a disaster including overnight shelters, emergency meals, comfort kits, first-aid, mental health services, and financial assistance.

USDA Farm Service Agency - Various financial assistance programs to help farmers, ranchers, communities, and businesses affected by disasters and adverse events.

USDA Risk Management Agency - Offers wildfire-related coverage. Check your policy details.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) EQIP Program - May fund efforts to prevent future fire damage.

FEMA Assistance - After a major disaster, the federal government may declare Individual Assistance for certain damaged areas in a state. If you live in one of these areas, you may qualify to apply.

OUTREACH MATERIALS

Include the following text in your May or June newsletter!

Wildfire season is near — now's the time for Washington farmers and ranchers to get ready

With wildfire season fast approaching, now is the time for Washington farmers and ranchers to get ready. Have a fire plan, know your evacuation routes, and prepare your animals, equipment, and team for a fast response.

Evacuating without a plan can escalate an emergency — especially in Washington, where wildfires move fast.

But wildfire preparedness goes beyond having a plan or reacting in the moment — it also means knowing where to turn before, during, and after a crisis. In high-stress situations, finding the right help can feel overwhelming. That's why connecting with support services ahead of time is so critical.

To make wildfire readiness easier and more accessible, WSDA has gathered all the key resources in one place: *agr.wa.gov/wildfires*

Reach out to your local Conservation District, USDA Farm Service Agency, county Emergency Management office, and WSDA for help with risk assessments, emergency planning, and recovery support. Knowing who to call and what help is available can provide clarity and confidence in the middle of chaos.

Preparedness today protects your land, your animals, and your well-being tomorrow.

Need support or have questions? Contact WSDA Emergency Management at *Emergencymanagement@agr.wa.gov*.

Wildfire poster - key reminders

Wildfire readiness on your farm

You can take actions to reduce your risk and damages. Start with what you can control:

Protect Yourself

- Create and keep a safety plan. Your farm plan should include things like an evacuation and emergency plan and having an emergency supply kit or go-bag on hand.
- Have emergency contact information readily available.
- Sign up for weather alerts and emergency notifications.
- Understand your insurance coverage.

Protect Your Land

- Create and maintain fire guards around pastures.
- Create noncombustible areas around spaces where equipment, fuel and hay are stored.
- Check your water supply and add a supply if needed, such as an irrigation ditch or pond.
- Contact your local USDA Farm Service Agency office and register your operation.

Protect Your Animals

- Identify your animals and ensure proper registration or branding of livestock.
- Keep a copy of your animal ID information in your emergency kit.
- Create an evacuation plan for all animals and create an area where you can move them if necessary.
- Hook up your stock trailer, check tires and fuel to be ready for an evacuation.
- Identify neighbors, family, or friends that can help move your animals if you don't have access to a trailer.

Protect Your Structures

- Install and maintain smoke detectors.
- Keep barns and other structures free of trash and combustible material.
- Place fire extinguishers in all structures and equipment and check them regularly.
- Use approved fire doors on buildings.
- Keep above-ground fuel storage tanks a minimum of 40 feet from buildings.

Work with fire professionals to evaluate fire risk on your property and provide recommendations

Washington State Department of Agriculture

AGR1-2505-007 (New 2505) Do you need this publication in an alternate format? Please call the WSDA Receptionist at 360-902-1976 or TTY 800-833-6388.

Downlaod *Letter size*

Download *Tabloid size*

Publication AGR1-2505-005

Join our unified social media campaign

Be prepared
Link to image

Protect your operation
Link to image

LIvestock Planning
Link to image

Wildfire action plan
Link to image

Ready, set, go!
Link to image

Recovery resources
Link to image

Copy/paste the text below:

"We're joining @wsda [handle] in encouraging farmers and ranchers to take a few simple steps now to protect your land, crops, and livestock against wildfire.

Wildfires move fast, and without a plan, things can escalate quickly. It's not just about reacting when the fire is close—it's about being prepared before, during, and after the crisis."

@WAStateDeptAg

@wsdagov

Review these slides to make sure you're ready and visit the WSDA website at *agr.wa.gov/wildfires* for more resources.

Knowing who to contact and what support is available can bring clarity and confidence in the face of an emergency.

Let's work together to keep Washington's ag community safe and wildfire ready!

POST-WILDFIRE ANIMAL AND LIVESTOCK CARE RESOURCES

Wildfires can injure livestock, destroy their food and shelter, and leave them scared or stressed.

Your animals rely on you—by preparing in advance and knowing what to do, you're giving them the best chance to stay safe and recover quickly.

This resource walks you through easy, effective steps to care for your animals before, during, and after a wildfire.

Caring for Livestock After a Wildfire – WSDA

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about wildfire preparedness and resources for agricultural producers, visit: WSDA Wildfire Resources: *agr.wa.gov/wildfires*

#WildfirePreparedness #WAAgriculture #WSDA

AGR1-2505-006 (New 2505) Do you need this publication in an alternate format? Contact the WSDA Receptionist at (360) 902-1976 or TTY Relay (800) 833-6388.