

STAYING SAFE DURING WILDFIRES

BE PREPARED



BEFORE:

The best time to prepare for an emergency is before it occurs. Completing the following tasks will prepare you for a multitude of emergency situations.

- Make sure you are signed up for local alert systems. You can register for the Linn-Benton ALERT Emergency Notification System online at linnsheriff.org.
- Know multiple ways out of your area. Drive the routes to familiarize yourself with any obstacles or difficulties that could arise in an emergency.
- Have a plan for pets and livestock. Some shelters may not accept pets.
- Be prepared to be self-sufficient for up to 72 hours. Have canned food, medications, bottled water, chargers for electronic devices and toiletries stocked and easily accessible.
- Designate a “meet-up” location for family members, and make sure everyone is aware of evacuation plans.
- Keep important documents such as birth certificates, social security cards and more in a safe location where they can be gathered quickly.
- Make sure all insurance policies are accurate and current. Periodically take photos or videos of every room in your home and around your property in case of a loss for insurance claims.
- Keep a list of current emergency contacts so that you can let friends and family members know if you have to evacuate your home.

DURING:

If an emergency does occur in your area, follow these steps to give you and your family the best chance of surviving.

- Evacuate immediately if authorities tell you to do so. Failure to evacuate when ordered can mean that emergency responders will not be able to access you.
- Bring the items you prepared and gathered before the emergency, such as food and water, important documents and emergency contact lists.
- If trapped, call 9-1-1 with your location and turn on all lights. This will help first responders locate you.
- Continue to monitor your emergency alert systems for the “all-clear.”

AFTER:

Just because the emergency is over doesn't mean the danger has passed. Follow these steps after an emergency.

- Do not return to your home until you've been given the “all-clear” by authorities.
- Wear protective clothing after wildfires when cleaning up to avoid burns from smoldering debris and hot ash.
- Reach out to family and friends to let them know you are okay.
- Document any property damage with photos or videos for insurance claims.
- Be available for family, friends, and neighbors who may need someone to talk to about how they're feeling post-emergency. Don't be afraid to reach out, too, if you need to talk to someone. High stress situations can leave you vulnerable; help is always available.