## There's no time like the present – prepare now!

Virtually every city in the state is exposed to the effects of wildfires. But there are some simple things you can do to better protect your buildings and structures from wildfire damage.

- Remove all brush/grass from around buildings and propane tanks (even green vegetation can burn).
- Remove debris from gutters and roofs. Dead leaves and needles ignite easily.
- Set sprinklers on roofs and around your buildings.
- Limb up trees to eliminate the dead branches, known as "ladder fuel", on the lower levels of trees.
- Keep hoses with a nozzle connected to water faucets.
- Keep portable equipment such as generators, pumps and chain saws fully fueled.
- Back-up all critical data at an off-site location.

Despite your best efforts to protect your property, a wildfire is nearing your location. As you prepare to quickly evacuate:

- Close all windows and other openings.
- Use the recycle or re-circulate mode on the air conditioner. If you do not have air conditioning and it is too hot to stay inside with closed windows, seek shelter elsewhere.
- Plan ahead and park vehicles with the front facing out to allow for quick evacuation.

## Resources

**Is your county/city/town at risk for wildfires?**
View the state burn risk map.

**Emergency management contact**: Find your city or county emergency manager

**Emergency planning for local governments**
- Emergency management for senior officials checklist – MRSC
- Wildfire prevention: The wildland/urban interface – MRSC
- Elected officials' guide to emergency management – WSEMA
- Developing and maintaining emergency operations plans – FEMA
- Wildland fire response plan during COVID-19 pandemic – DOH

**WA State Department of Natural Resources**
- Wildfire information
- Wildfire preparedness
- Wildfire prevention
- Summary and plan for the WA Wildland Fire Protection Strategy
- Washington community wildfire protection plans – by county

**WA State Emergency Management Division**
- Preparedness
- Disaster assistance
- Grants
- Washington State Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan – includes wildfire risk index by county

**Federal Emergency Management Agency**
- Emergency response
- Response & recovery
- Course on wildfire mitigation basics for mitigation staff

*Report any damage to city/town property or any claims against the city/town immediately by calling RMSA Claims at (800) 562-8981 or after hours at (360) 753-3326 or e-mailing rmsa@awcnet.org.