

Roundtable Safety Moment

Wildfire Safety

Many people believe wildfires only matter in places with mountains and trees. However, wildfires occur anywhere there is fuel, flame, and oxygen. That means we are all in a potential wildfire area. There have been wildfires in all 50 states. We need to be prepared and prepare our youth as well.

To help scouts effectively prepare for wildfire emergencies, it is essential to prioritize safety by learning and practicing emergency preparedness. As scout leaders, we have the opportunity and responsibility to lead youth in learning about wildfires and what to do before, during, and after such events. The following sections outline key tips and steps for each phase.

Before a wildfire:

- As part of advancement, scouts should learn to develop a family emergency plan,
- build an emergency kit, and learn emergency skills such as “Stop, Drop, and Roll” and first aid skills
- As part of outdoor skills, scouts should learn to: plan for a campout by knowing where they are going and the fire risk, stay informed and know about restrictions and fire bans, practice outdoor ethics, and practice campfire safety



During a potential wildfire or a nearby wildfire

- Stay alert-what are the warnings
- Have a plan and evacuate immediately if needed
- Follow instructions for the safety of everyone
- Put the safety of the youth first

After a wildfire:

- Follow safety basics:: avoid any hot spots, follow public guidelines, stay away until safe to return
- Follow guidelines: assist in clean up as needed, partner with local organizations to help the community, keep yourself and your scouts safe while exposed to the after burn
- Stay healthy by ensuring safe drinking water, throw out any questionable foods, eat healthy, get enough sleep, and if needed, talk about your feelings

While you might not have to worry about wildfires where you are-but as leaders we need to remember that our youth may not stay in our area and we need to prepare them for all the possibilities that might face in life.

<p>American Red Cross Wildfire safety</p>	
<p>Wildland Fire Management Test Lab Merit Badge</p>	
<p>Aaron on Scouting-Survival strategies to help you escape a forest fire</p>	