



**Santa Barbara County
Aware & Prepare Initiative**
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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

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Editor's Notes:

The videos on have been placed on the Aware & Prepare Website in both English and Spanish. Videos can also be found on the OEM's Facebook site that is visible to anyone who visits. A Facebook login is not required: www.Facebook.com/SBCountyOEM. To receive Red Flag Warning text alerts, text the word **redflag** to 888777.

Are You Aware & Prepared for High Fire Season?

(Santa Barbara, CA) – People in Santa Barbara have their homes in woodland settings - in or near forests, rural areas, or remote mountain sites. There, homeowners enjoy the beauty of the environment, but face the very real danger of wildfire.

Every year Santa Barbara is prone to wildland fires and not every home survives. Those that survive almost always do so because their owners had prepared for the eventuality of fire, which is an inescapable force of nature in fire-prone wildland areas. Said in another way - if it's predictable, it's preventable!

Wildfires often begin unnoticed. They spread quickly, igniting brush, trees, and homes. Reduce your risk by preparing now - before wildfire strikes. Meet with your family to decide what to do and where to go if wildfires threaten your area. Follow the steps listed below to protect your family, home, and property. Review a copy of the County's [Ready Set Go Brochure](#) with your family and neighbors. "Ready Set Go" information can be found on the SB County Fire Department website at www.sbcfire.com.

The County's Operational Area encourages all citizens to prepare ahead of time by following a few safety tips:

- Make sure that fire vehicles can get to your home. Clearly mark all driveway entrances and display your name and address.
- Report hazardous conditions that could cause a wildfire.
- Teach children about fire safety. Keep matches out of their reach.
- Post fire emergency telephone numbers.
- Ensure adequate accessibility by large fire vehicles to your property.
- Plan several escape routes away from your home.
- Talk to your neighbors about wildfire safety. Plan how the neighborhood could work together after a wildfire. Make a list of your neighbors' skills such as medical or technical. Consider how you could help neighbors who have special needs such as elderly or disabled persons. Make plans to take care of children who may be on their own if their parents are unable to get home.
- Design and landscape your home with wildfire safety in mind. Select materials and plants that can help contain fire rather than fuel it.
- Plant fire-resistant shrubs and trees. For example, hardwood trees are less flammable than pine, evergreen, eucalyptus or fir trees.

Contact your local fire department for the best resources for proper planning.

Remember, it's our responsibility as a community to be fire safe!

Each month emergency managers and community leaders share a theme of preparedness with their communities. May is "Wildland Fire Awareness Month" in the Aware & Prepare education program. As a reminder, local emergency managers, government officials and partnering agencies will be using the following as their email tag line with hyperlinks:



May is Wildland Fire Awareness Month

Don't be One That Feels the Heat...

Learn More About [Ready, Set, Go!](#)

[Aware & Prepare Initiative Monthly Preparedness Videos](#)

The Aware & Prepare Initiative is a public-private partnership to enhance the capabilities of non-profit organizations and government agencies to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies and disasters within the Santa Barbara County Operational Area. The Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Management manages the Initiative in cooperation with the local emergency management community.

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