

## Business Protection Guidance

# 3 ACTIONS TO PREPARE YOUR BUSINESS FOR WILDFIRE DURING COVID-19

As the nation continues to focus on the COVID-19 crisis, it's clear natural disasters are not taking the year off. Recent experiences with destructive wildfires outside of the traditional "fire season" (normally September through October) have underscored the need for eternal vigilance when it comes to wildfire resilience planning and preparation. Furthermore, the fire season length has significantly grown over the last few years solidifying the need for a plan that can be initiated year round.

Developing plans while dealing with the challenges of COVID-19 requires some extra diligence, but the work will pay off if a fire threatens your area and you have limited time to implement your plans. Here is some guidance to help you get started.

## BE WILDFIRE READY

Protect the most vulnerable components of your business at all price levels with **IBHS Wildfire Ready-Business**.

Whether you're constructing a new building, remodeling, or preparing for an event, IBHS has science-backed tips to help. Prepare now and be Wildfire Ready.

[DISASTERSAFETY.ORG/WILDFIRE](https://disastersafety.org/wildfire)



## BUILD A PLAN

In addition to tasks such as creating a buffer around the building, your business should also have a business continuity plan that covers the ways a wildfire could impact your operations and how you'll prepare and respond. For Example:

*Do you know how you will contact your staff to provide guidance if your area is threatened by a wildfire?*

Develop a plan using the OFB-EZ toolkit to help your business recovery quickly.

[DISASTERSAFETY.ORG/OFB-EZ](https://disastersafety.org/ofb-ez)

## PREPARE WITH COVID-19 IN MIND

Understand the unique parameters that shape your emergency preparedness plan due to COVID-19. Keep in mind the following:

- Your facility may be evacuated or temporarily shut down.
- Employees may be working remotely.
- Routine building maintenance and wildfire preparation may have been put off.
- The CDC guidelines on personal protection and social distancing may affect how your team works together to prepare your facility.
- Firefighting activities also require special social distancing protocols which can increase response times to your business.
- While IBHS always recommends creating a buffer around the building, it is now more important than ever with extended response times.
- With new safety protocols, supply chain disruptions, and increasing workloads with compromised staffing, scheduling repairs with contractors may be more difficult.

