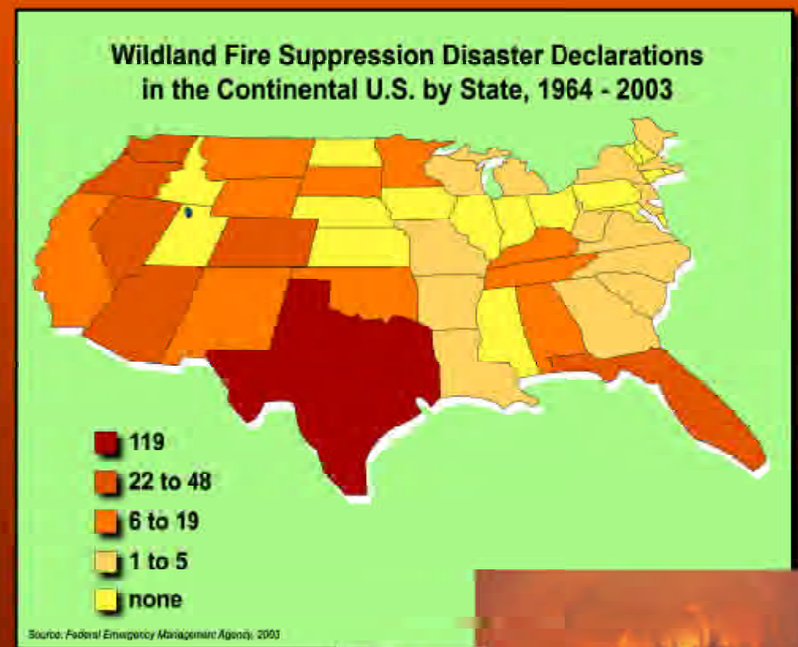
WILDFIRES

If you live on a remote hillisde or in a valley, prairie, or forest where flammable vegetation is abundant, your residence could be vulnerable to wildfires. These fires are usually triggered by lightning or accidents. Wildfires spread quickly, igniting brush, trees, and homes.

To help prepare for wildfires, you should:

Mark the entrance to your property with address signs that are clearly visible from the road.
Keep lawn trimmed, leaves raked, and roof and rain gutters free from debris.
Stack firewood at least 30 feet away from residence.
Store flammable materials, liquids, and solvents in metal containers outside your residence - at least 30 feet away.
Make sure water sources, such as hydrants, ponds, swimming pools, and wells are accessible to the fire department.
Use fire resistant, protective roofing and materials like stone, brick, and metal to protect your residence.
Use fire-resistant draperies for added window protection.
Have chimneys, wood stoves, and all home heating systems inspected and cleaned annually.
Insulate chimneys and place spark arresters on top.
Remove branches hanging above and around the chimney.



When a wildfire threatens:

Shut off gas at the meter. Only a qualified professional can safely turn the gas back on.
Seal attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood.
Turn off propane tanks.
Place combustible patio furniture inside.
Connect garden hose to outside taps, and sprinklers on roof - wet the roof.
Wet or remove shrubs within 15 feed of residence.
Gather fire tools such as a rake, axe, handsaw or chainsaw, bucket, and shovel.
Back your car into the garage or park in open space facing direction of escape.
Close windows, vents, doors, blinds. Remove flammable drapes and curtains.
Close all interior doors and windows to prevent drafts.
Place valuables that will not be damaged by water in a pool or pond.

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POC: Claudia Beach, 301-903-9828