



WILDFIRES

PHA's should be prepared for any type of natural disaster regardless of the region in which they are located. Wildfires can occur in any part of the country; fires can erupt at any time of the year due to a variety of causes, including arson, lightning, and debris burning. Arid areas are particularly prone to wildfires that can result from daily living activities, such as campfires.



Wildfire Preparedness

- Conduct a risk assessment and make a plan for **each type** of disaster.
- Pay attention to weather reports and air quality alerts.
- Housing inspections can identify risks.
- In areas particularly prone to wildfires, a PHA may consider fire-risk mitigation measures such as:
 - Use of fire-resistant materials in renovations
 - Ensuring there are outdoor water sources that can reach any area of a property
 - create and maintain fire-resistant zones that are free of leaves, debris, and other flammable materials
 - wet down the exterior of buildings, including roofs, when possible.
- Resident education – residents of multifamily properties are essential participants in disaster planning and recovery
 - In locations prone to wildfires, frequently educate residents on planning, prevention, and safety measures
 - **Get Ready**
 - Harden your home, create defensible space, select fire-resistant plants.
 - **Get Set**
 - Build a wildfire action plan, prepare your family, and pack your go bag.
 - **Go**
 - Follow evacuation guide, get your home ready, protect your animals.
 - In case evacuation is required, gather supplies such as:
 - Non-perishable foods
 - Potable water
 - First aid supplies
 - Cleaning supplies and towels
 - Important documents (secured in a fireproof and waterproof container, if possible)
 - Use this information to inform your COOP.



Wildfire Resources

- [Ready.gov's Risk Assessment page](#) for detailed guidance and resources
- Ready.gov's [Prepare for Wildfires](#)
- Multi-hazard [Mapping Information Platform](#) – Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- [Fire Weather](#) – National Weather Service (NOAA)
- [Wildland Fire Assessment System](#)
- [NFPA 101: Life Safety Code®](#) – National Fire Protection Association
- [National Interagency Fire Center](#)



Following a Wildfire Disaster – Funding Recovery

Before other resources are used, proceeds from a PHA's **insurance** should be the primary source of funding for recovery. After a disaster, PHAs should **immediately** process **insurance claims**.

Review the funding sources below and the following:

- The [Public Housing Agency: Applying for FEMA Public Assistance](#) factsheet.
- [FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants](#)

Fund	Source	Summary
FEMA Public Assistance (FEMA PA)*	FEMA	PA is grant assistance for debris removal, emergency protective measures, and the restoration and mitigation of disaster-damaged facilities, including public housing.
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Post Fire Assistance (HMGP Post Fire)*	FEMA	HMGP Post Fire helps communities implement hazard mitigation measures that substantially reduce the risk of future damage, hardship, loss, or suffering in any area affected by a fire.

*These FEMA programs are managed by states, **territories, and tribal nations**, and **funds are distributed to local entities such as cities, counties and PHAs. Additional information can be provided by local and state emergency management offices.**

