

Bulletin Title: May is National Wildfire Awareness Month!

Subtitle: Preparation is key to your recovery after a disaster/emergency.



Wildfires are unplanned fires that burn in natural areas like forests, grasslands or prairies. These dangerous fires spread quickly and can devastate not only wildlife and natural areas, but also communities.

In 2023, [CALFIRE](#) reported 7127 wildfires with up to 324,917 burned acres. Being prepared is the single best thing you can do for your home, family, and community.

May 2024 is also Older Americans Month. While you prepare for wildfires, don't forget to consider those who may be most vulnerable during wildfires and discover ways you can teach them about preparedness or support their efforts directly.

The Social Services Agency (SSA), Government and Community Relations (GCR), Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management's (DPEM) wildfire response and support to Agency staff and Alameda County residents include:

- monitoring wildfires and air quality
- issuing communications—bulletins, emails, website updates
- updating the Employee Emergency Hotline, (510) 208-3929 with information and reporting instructions
- supporting evacuations
- establishing evacuation points
- setting up shelters

Are you Prepared?

All of us have an essential role in protecting ourselves, loved ones, and communities from wildfire. Take the following steps to proactively stay prepared and mitigate devastating impacts:

- **Know Your Risk** – Prepare for environmental risks in your area.
- **Make a Plan** – Create a plan specific to your household before a disaster/emergency strikes.
- **Take Action** – Be ready to respond and recover from a disaster/emergency.

Most importantly, remember to stay safe and evacuate premises immediately if authorities tell you to do so!

Learn more at:

- [Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management \(DPEM\)](#)
- [SSA's Wildfire Smoke Hazards Communication & Control Protocol](#)
- [DPEM Preparedness Flyer](#)

Partner Resources:

- [AC Alerts](#)
- [Disaster Readiness – Listos California](#)
- [Ready.gov/wildfires](#) | [Ready.gov/older-adults](#)

Alameda County Community Trainings:

- [Alameda County Community Emergency Response Team \(CERT\)](#)
- [Alameda County Stop the Bleed Trainings](#)
- [Alameda Public Health Department | Personal Emergency Preparedness Training - Over the Phone for Vulnerable Populations](#)

Questions?

Contact Office of DPEM at SSADPEM@acgov.org

Take care and stay safe!

[Government and Community Relations \(GCR\)](#)

[Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management \(DPEM\)](#)