



# Protect Yourself From Wildfires

**After a wildfire, safety is a priority. Remain cautious of unstable structures, smoke and ash exposure, and hazardous air quality.**

## Best Practices to Reduce Exposures



**1** Follow evacuation orders, wait for official clearance from local authorities to return, and stay updated on emergency announcements (evacuation routes, road closures, recovery resources).



**2** Assess the air quality and wear the proper protective gear (N-95 or P-100 respirator mask, goggles, gloves, long-sleeved shirts, pants, and shoes to protect your eyes and skin).



**3** Inspect your water supply and keep an eye out for boil water notices and water safety alerts in your area. Wildfires can contaminate water sources with chemicals, ash, and debris.



**4** Clean surfaces by mopping, HEPA vacuuming, and damp dusting to remove potentially harmful gases.









**5** Take care of your mental health, seek support from loved ones and community groups.

# Protect Yourself in Area With Ash

Take precautions when cleaning up ash from wildfires, which can contain harmful chemicals and residue from burned materials.



-  **1** Wear a tight-fitting N-95 or P-100 respirator mask, goggles, gloves, and long-sleeve clothing to avoid inhaling ash or getting it on your skin
-  **2** When air quality improves, ventilate the area by opening windows and doors
-  **3** Before you start cleaning, check the area for any dangerous debris (broken glass, exposed wires, unstable walls)
-  **4** Dry Ash Cleaning: Use a HEPA-filter equipped vacuum or gently wipe it up with a damp cloth. Avoid sweeping and using leaf blowers.
-  **5** Wet Ash Cleaning: Use a spray bottle with water and lightly mist area. Wipe the surface gently with a damp cloth. Avoid scrubbing too hard.
-  **6** Collect ash into a plastic bag and throw out in the regular trash

## Additional Resources



[Air Quality Alerts](#)



[DIY Air Filter](#)



[Watch Duty App](#)



[EJRL Wildfire Webpage](#)