

**JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA REQUEST

TO: Board of County Commissioners
Mark McCauley, County Administrator

FROM: Heidi Eisenhour, Commissioner
Bret Black, Chief, East Jefferson Fire & Rescue

DATE: August 28, 2023

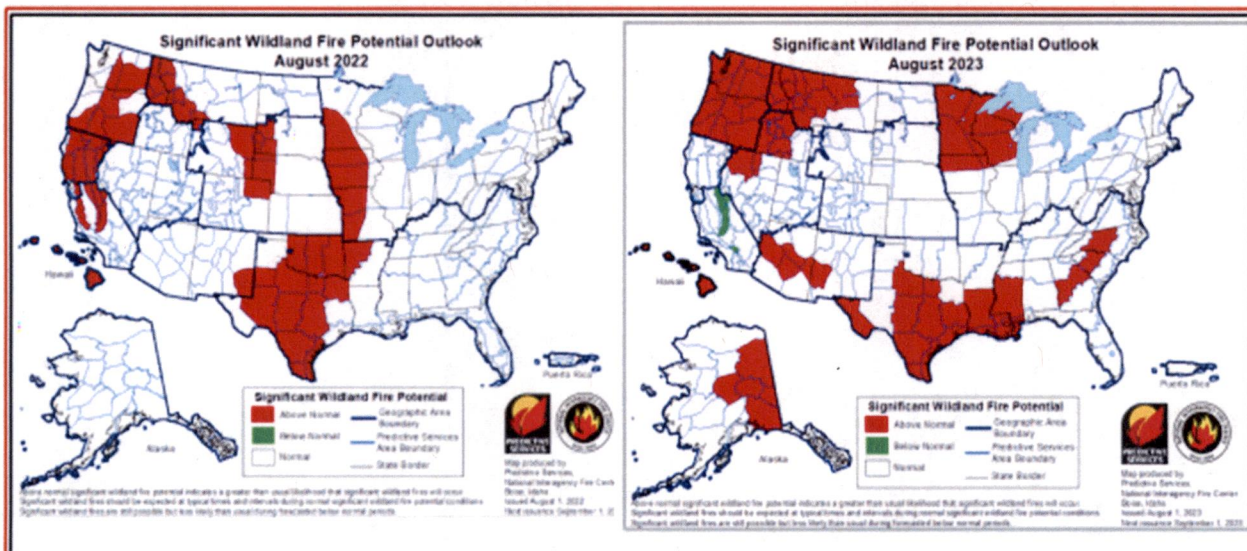
SUBJECT: Dry conditions persisting and wildfire planning

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

EJFR has requested to present a wildfire summary to raise awareness of our local conditions over the next few months. Even though it might be cooler in the coming weeks.... we are too dry. The National Interagency Fire Center is forecasting this current weather pattern to persist through October. We also want to promote our Community Wildfire Prevention Planning survey – available here: [Jefferson County Community Wildfire Protection Plan \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com).

ANALYSIS:

Conditions are significantly different than they were this time last year in our region:



FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

RECOMMENDATION:

Discuss, spread awareness.

REVIEWED BY:


Mark McCauley, County Administrator

8/24/23
Date



EJFR.org

bblack@ejfr.org

TOPICS

Current Wildfire Summary

Evacuation Review

How do wildfires start?

Humans cause almost 90 percent of U.S. wildfires due to factors such as discarded cigarettes, unattended campfires, burning debris, or through equipment malfunctions (utilities), negligence, or intentional act (arson). (*Western Fire Chiefs Association*)

It is difficult to determine the cause of wildfires.



August 25, 2023

Currently 78 wildfires have burned 603,921 acres in 14 states. Wildland firefighting resources and support personnel assigned to incidents includes 20 incident management teams, 377 crews, 1,303 engines, 101 helicopters and two MAFFS C-130 airtankers.

With more than 18,500 wildland firefighters and support personnel working on incidents, they need your help to prevent human-caused wildfires. Check for fire restrictions before you go to your favorite place on your public lands.



Wildfire Weather Outlook

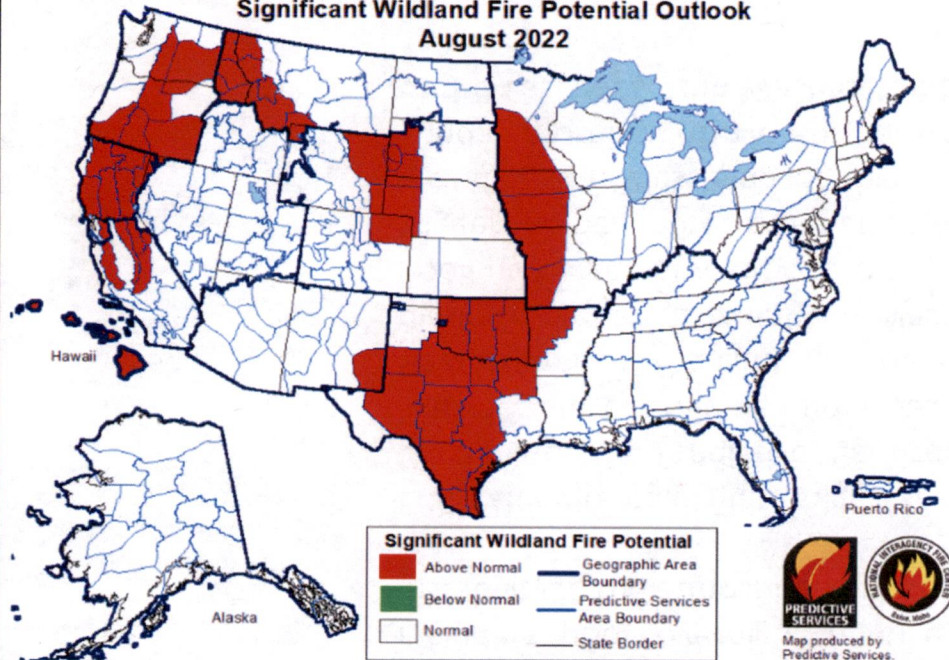
August through October 2023

Issued 25 August 2023

Northwest Fire Potential Summary Significant fire potential is elevated to high risk for initiation of new significant fires today mainly from the Cascades westward due to a combination of contributing conditions including poor overnight relative humidity recovery, light eastern flow, instability in the atmosphere and lightning strikes over receptive fuels.

ERC values remain quite high for much of western Oregon and southwest Washington in Predictive Service Areas (PSA) NW02, NW03, NW04 so lightning starts could be numerous enough to pose a high risk of initiation of new large fires. The light easterly wind flow over the Cascades will gradually diminish and focus mainly on Washington Friday and Saturday morning but poor overnight humidity recovery will continue. The weather pattern will trigger some more thunderstorms for both Oregon and Washington, including the west side of the Cascades this morning and possibly again Sunday morning. **Above normal wildfire potential will likely continue west of the Cascades from Washington to northwest California into October.**

Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook August 2022



Significant Wildland Fire Potential

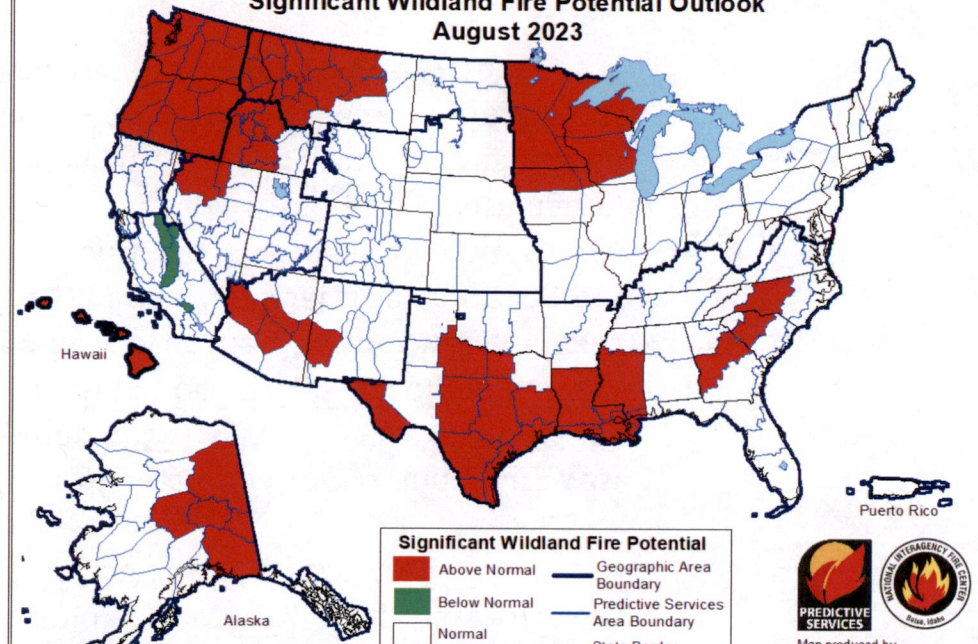
■ Above Normal	— Geographic Area Boundary
■ Below Normal	— Predictive Services Area Boundary
■ Normal	— State Border



Map produced by
Predictive Services,
National Interagency Fire Center
Boise, Idaho
Issued August 1, 2022
Next issuance September 1, 2022

Above normal significant wildland fire potential indicates a greater than usual likelihood that significant wildland fires will occur.
Significant wildland fires should be expected at typical times and intervals during normal significant wildland fire potential conditions.
Significant wildland fires are still possible but less likely than usual during forecasted below normal periods.

Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook August 2023



Significant Wildland Fire Potential

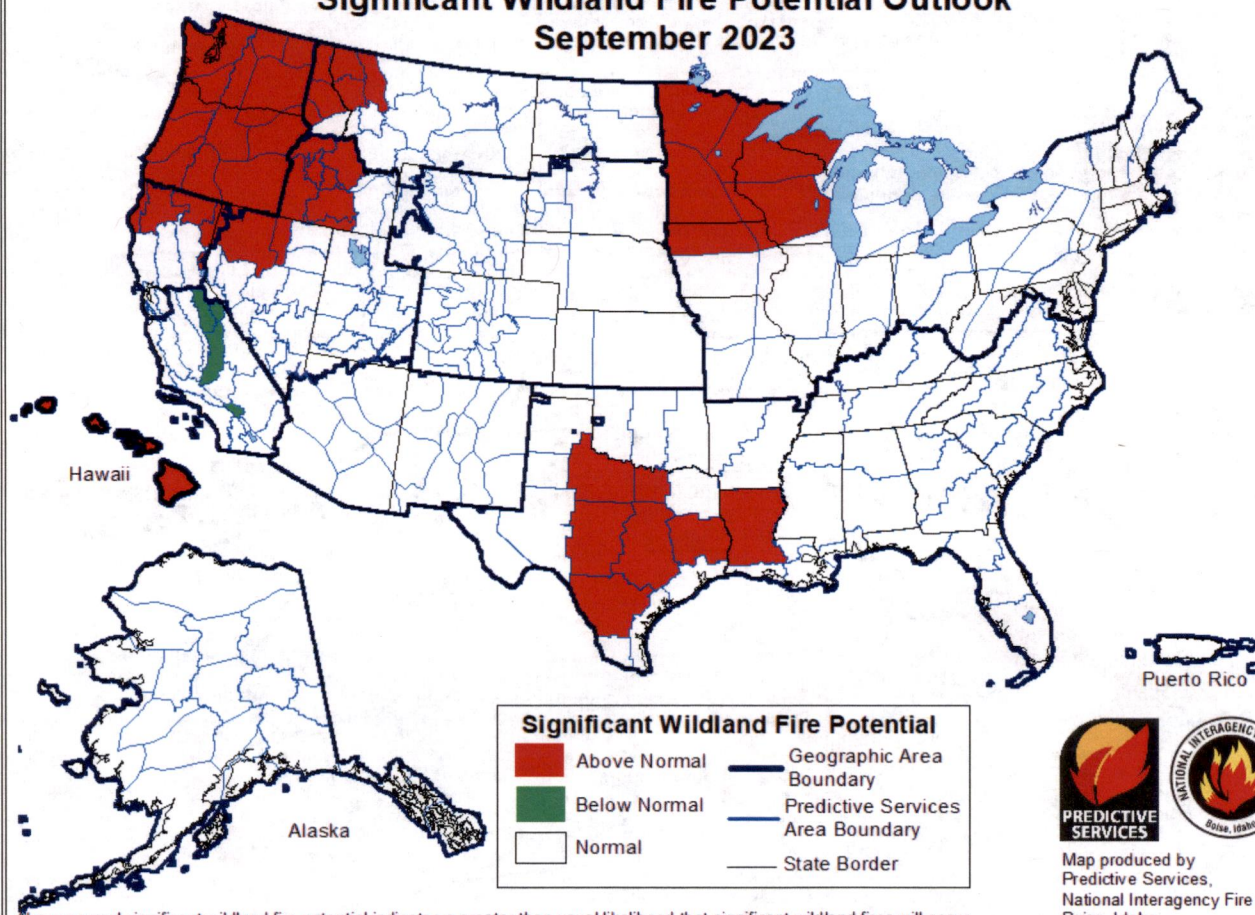
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Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook September 2023

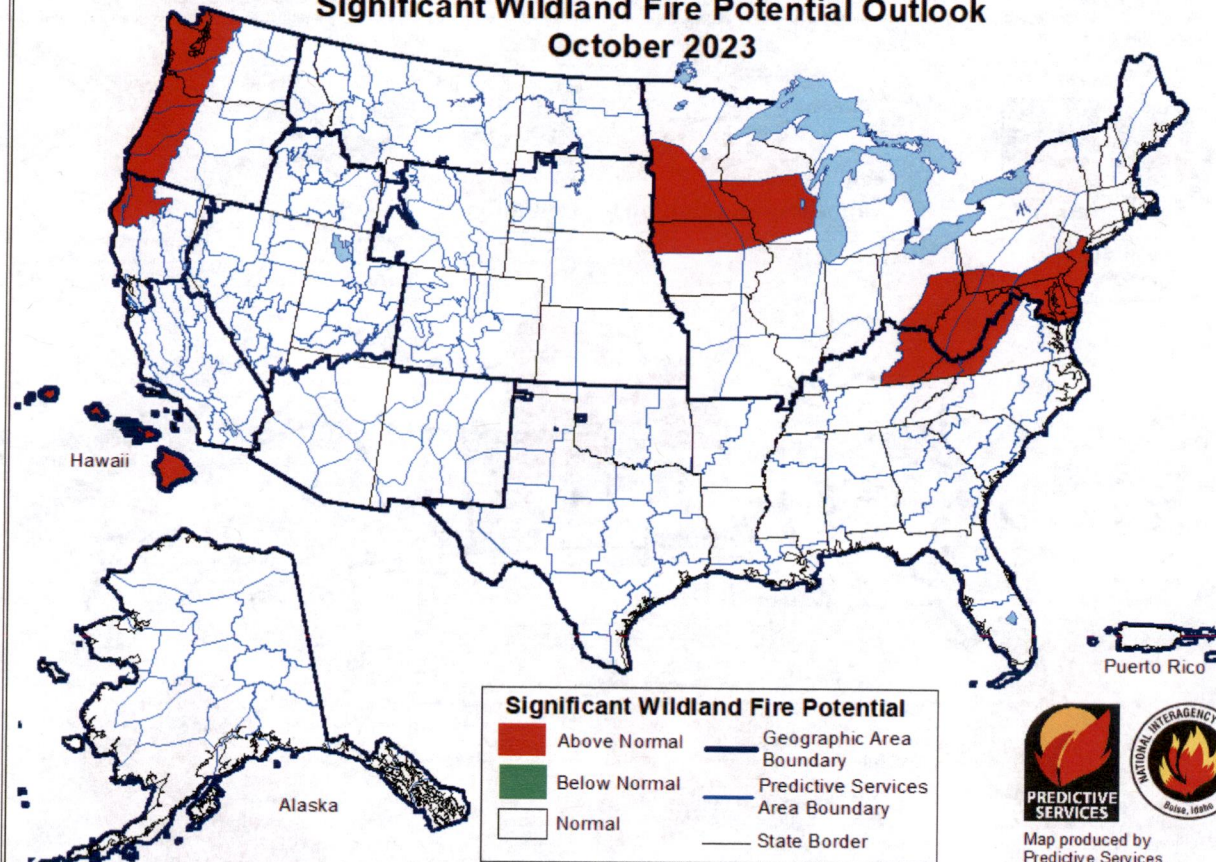


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Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook October 2023



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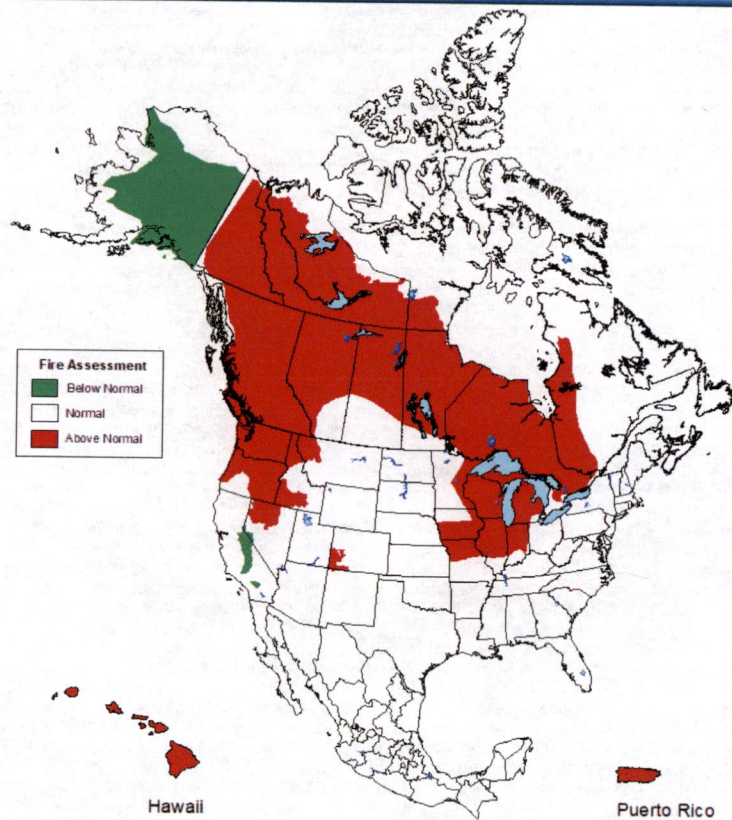
Lahaina, Maui

A 35-unit, senior-living complex in Lahaina may have been one of the first major buildings to burn down. (*NY Times*)

- At least 2200 structures lost
- At least 111 confirmed dead
- 1300 missing
- Strong winds were a factor, blowing trees into power lines.
- Several other fires are burning across the State.



North American Seasonal Fire Assessment August 2023



Monthly fire outlook for North America. Red shading indicates areas where conditions would favor increased fire activity. Green shading indicates areas where conditions would favor decreased fire activity.

Wildfires in Canada

● Fires detected in the last 24 hours (as of Aug. 19, 9.20 AM)



Source: NASA FIRMS, Reuters, Natural Earth
SAMUEL GRANADOS / THE WASHINGTON POST



Yellowknife, BC

Flames threatening Kelowna, BC and West Kelowna are among 380 wildfires burning in the British Columbia. More than 20,000 have evacuated.

Local Events

Beaver Valley Fire

Dispatched to 5'x20' brush fire along side of Beaver Valley Road.

Battalion Chief was first to arrive, Command established.

"30'x60' light fuel, moving up hill, Beaver Valley Command"

Battalion Chief update

"Now 100'x200', Fire is running. The fire is spotting."

Additional resources from Navy, Quilcene, Brinnon, Discovery Bay, DNR, Olympic NP.





Additional Actions

- Aircraft (Helitac)
- Strike Team from Kitsap
- Evacuations along BVR

Brush Fire 49th in Port Townsend

8/3/23 at 9:44am

Dispatched for tree into wires.

When crew arrived the power line broke, which ignited several spot fires immediately adjacent to Cappy's Trails.

Luckily the firefighters were standing right there and quickly extinguished the fires.





Port Ludlow Brush Fire Ebb Tide Court Trail

8/16/23 at 11:45PM

Security Guard found a brush fire on the trail, called 911.

The initial size of the fire was reported to be approximately 5'x5'.

East Jefferson Fire Rescue (EJFR) responded with a full alarm assignment, dispatching four engines staffed with 12 personnel and the Battalion Chief.

The first engine to arrive observed that the fire had grown to approximately 50'x50'.





EVACUATION

Level 1 Advisory, monitor local news/media. Prepare to evacuate should conditions worsen.

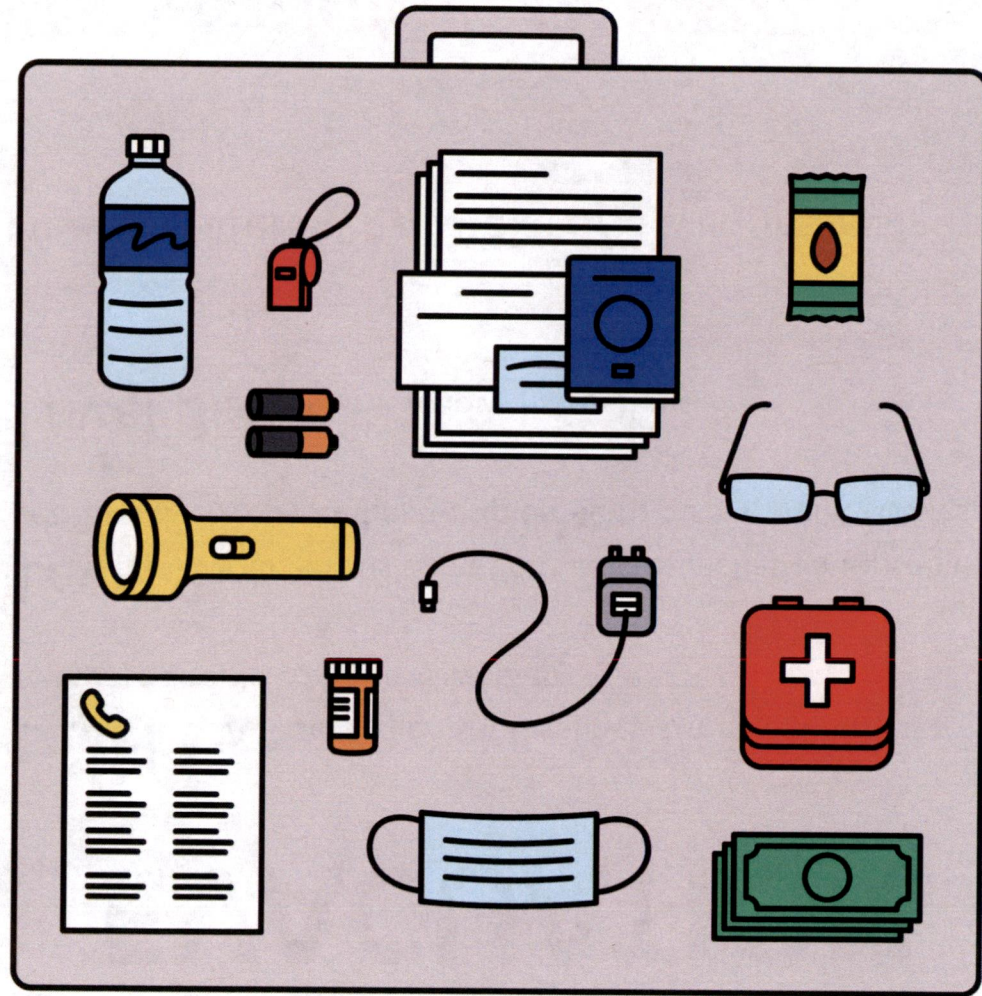
Level 2 Dangerous conditions exist, evacuation is probable. Leave early if you need extra time due to pets, mobility issues, etc.

Level 3 Leave now, follow instructions.

Never wait to be told to leave. If you feel threatened by smoke or a wildfire, evacuate early!

SIGN UP FOR NIXLE ALERTS, text [jeffcodem](https://www.jeffcodem.com) to 888777.

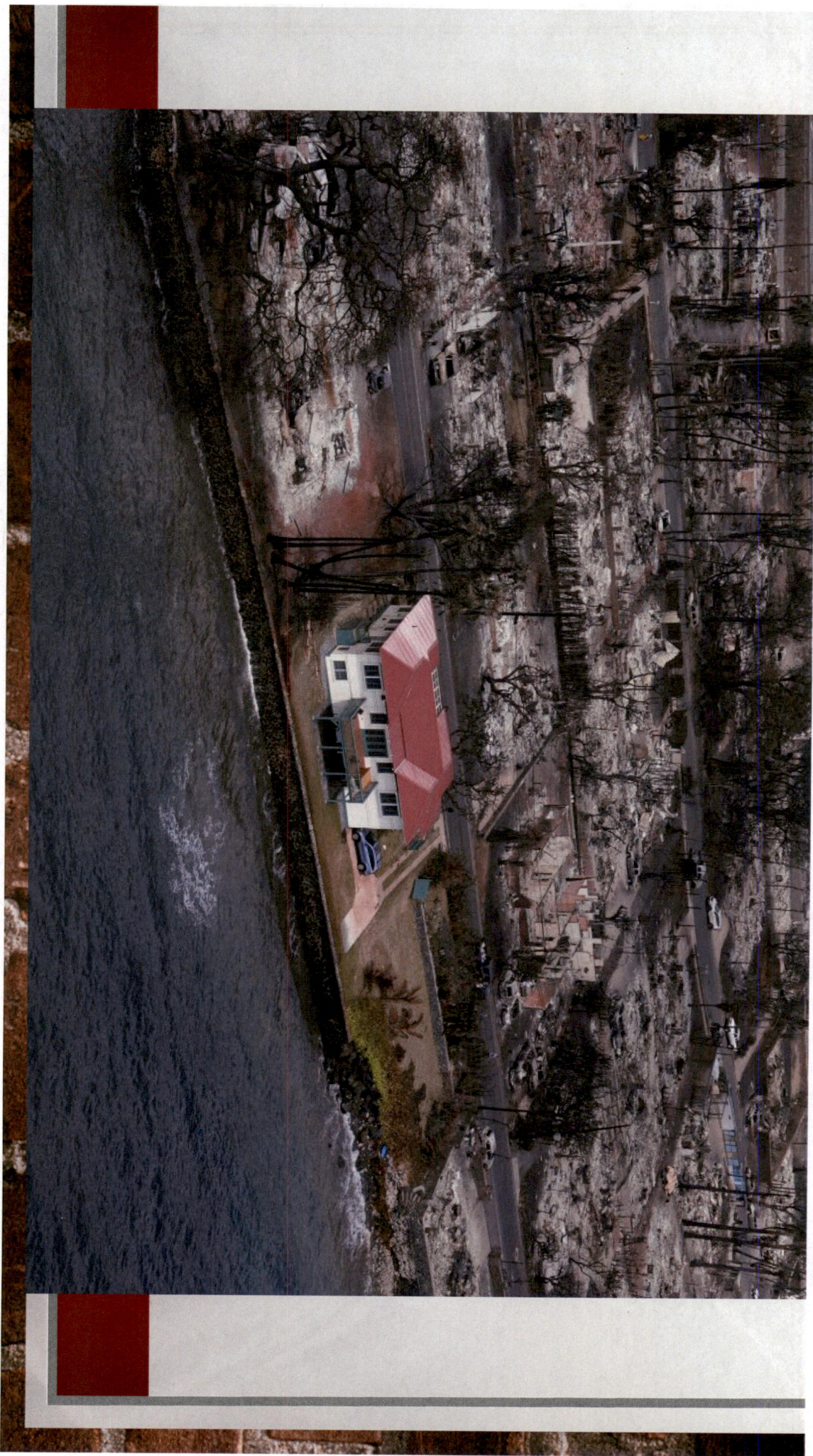
Keep a
GO BAG
in your car!

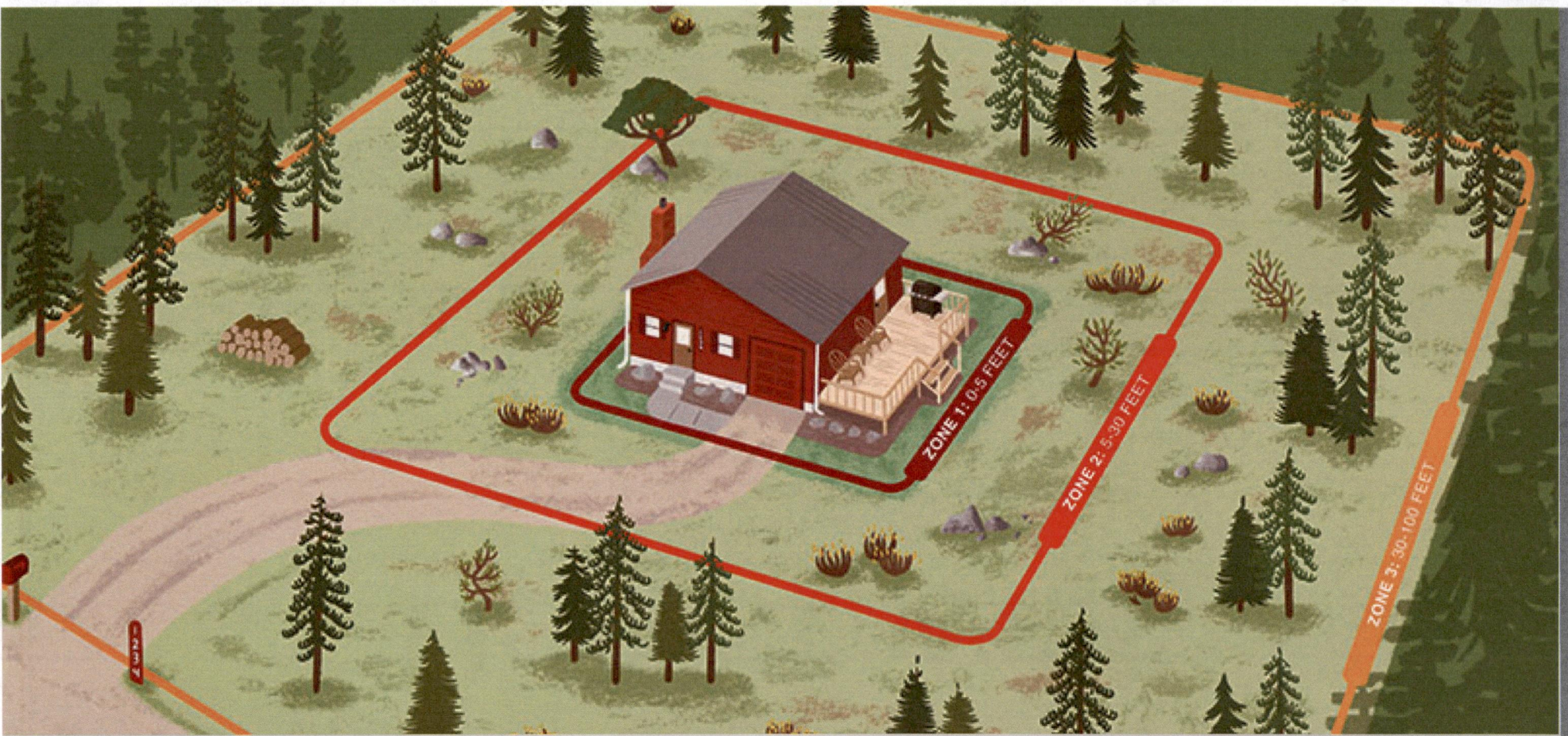


Go Bag Checklist

- Face masks or face coverings
- Three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Three gallons of water per person
- Local paper maps
- Prescriptions or special medications
- Change of clothing
- Extra eyeglasses or contact lenses
- Extra set of car keys, credit cards, cash or traveler's checks
- First aid kit & flashlight
- Cell phone & laptop power supply
- Battery-powered radio and extra batteries
- Sanitation supplies
- Copies of important documents (insurance, birth certificates, passports, etc.)
- Don't forget pet food and water!

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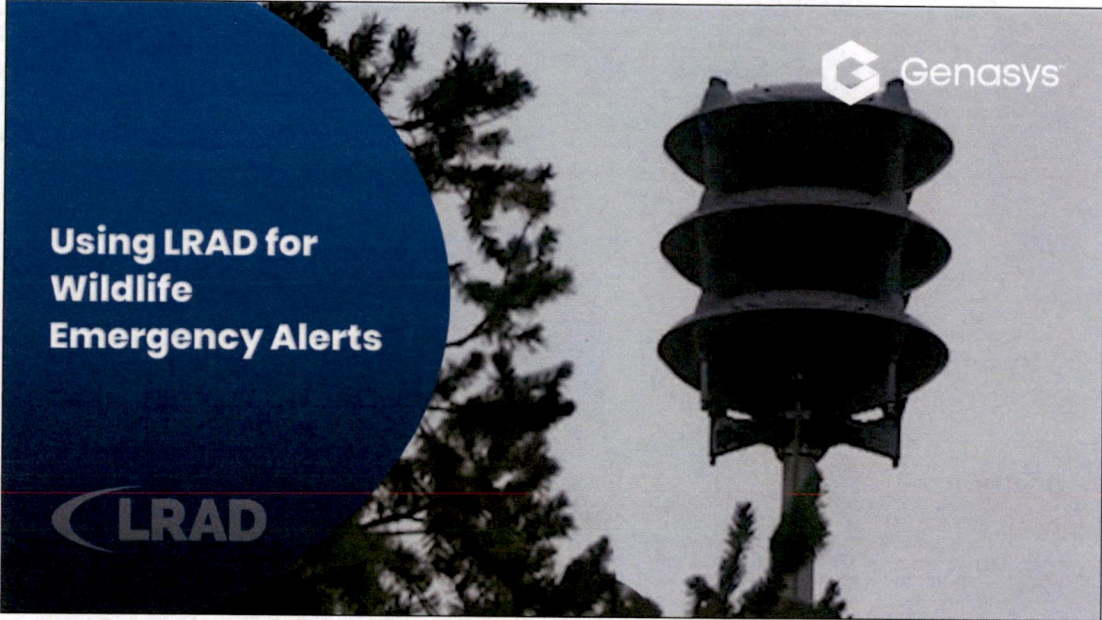
Do not wait...
EVACUATE



What about Tsunami Sirens?

Analogue sirens were first used for disasters in 1949. Their range is limited, about a mile. Today they are used primarily for tornado and tsunami warning.

They are a low cost option for a specific threat. The community has to regularly train and know what to do when activated.



**Using LRAD for
Wildlife
Emergency Alerts**

LRAD

 Genasys

What about LRADs?

Long Range Acoustic Devices (LRAD) project both siren and voice recordings to alert and inform the community.

Civilian LRAD systems are very effective in community alerting and messaging. They can be costly but are used increasingly in communities with a variety of threats from natural disasters. LRADs are in use or being installed in numerous cities in California such as San Francisco, Mill Valley, Berkeley and Paradise.



Are you ready ?

NETFLIX | NOV 1

A NETFLIX ORIGINAL DOCUMENTARY

FIRE IN PARADISE



RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

NFPA – NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

[NFPA.ORG/PUBLIC-EDUCATION/FIRE-CAUSES-AND-RISKS/WILDFIRE/FIREWISE-USA](https://www.nfpa.org/public-education/fire-causes-and-risks/wildfire/firewise-usa)

[NFPA.ORG/-/MEDIA/FILES/FIREWISE/FACT-SHEETS/FIREWISEHOWTOPREPREAREYOURHOMEFORWILDFIRES.PDF](https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/files/firewise/fact-sheets/firewisehowtoprepareyourhomeforwildfires.pdf)

[YOUTUBE.COM/USER/NFPADOTORG](https://www.youtube.com/user/NFPADOTORG)

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

[DNR.WA.GOV/STRATEGICFIREPROTECTION](https://dnr.wa.gov/strategicfireprotection)

FIREWISE USA

[EDGEWOODVILLAGEPORTLUDLOW.COM/FIREWISE/](https://edgewoodvillageportludlow.com/firewise/)

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON – OLYMPIC PENINSULA COMMUNITY MUSEUM

[HTTPS://CONTENT.LIB.WASHINGTON.EDU/CMPWEB/EXHIBITS/FORKSFIRE/INDEX.HTML](https://content.lib.washington.edu/cmpweb/exhibits/forksfire/index.html)

WEATHER ATLAS – US

[HTTPS://WWW.WEATHER-US.COM/EN/WASHINGTON-USA/PORT-LUDLOW-CLIMATE#RAINFALL](https://www.weather-us.com/en/washington-usa/port-ludlow-climate#rainfall)



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