

13. BE PREPARED IN CASE OF WILDFIRE

13.1 Water Supply

Have an adequate or reliable water supply available in case of wildfires. For example, storage tanks, swimming pool, creeks or lakes can be utilized quickly with preplanning ([CCR 1275](#)).



Photograph 13.1.
Alternate Water Supply

13.2 Portable Water Pumps

Have a portable gasoline-powered water pump available with suction hose and enough fire hose to effectively reach around structures.

13.3 Swimming Pools

These are excellent sources of water for fire protection, when access is provided for emergency equipment to utilize the water.



**Photograph 13.2.
Swimming Pool**

13.4 Garden Hoses

Garden hose outlets should be located on the exterior of all dwellings with enough hose available to protect all sides of the dwelling and its roof.

13.5 Fire Tools

Have a cache of fire tools readily available including: ladder, extra garden hose, shovel, rake, buckets, etc.

13.6 Extra Protection

Pre-cut plywood window and sliding glass door coverings can provide increased protection. Nail them in place when a wildfire threatens.

13.7 Know the Danger Signs

- ✓ Prolonged dry weather.
- ✓ Plants and grass drying out.
- ✓ Cold weather that may speed up drying of vegetation.
- ✓ Drought year – limited rainfall and snow pack.
- ✓ Windy conditions.
- ✓ Thunderstorms.

Know what valuables you will take with you in case you are evacuated. Post the list in a visible location as a reference.

14. WHEN WILDFIRE APPROACHES



**Photograph 14.1.
Approaching Wildfire**

14.1 Close Windows and Doors

Close windows and doors to the house including garage doors and all doors inside the house. Take down drapes and curtains to prevent combustion from radiant heat. Turn on all lights so your house is visible in heavy smoke.

14.2 Water

Charge pre-positioned hose lines for use in combating the fire.

14.3 Wet Roof

If the roof is combustible, wet it down or, if equipped, turn on roof sprinklers.

14.4 Turn Off Gas

Turn off the gas at the meter and the propane at the tank.

14.5 Listen to Radio

Keep the radio tuned to local stations for timely reports on the fire's status and for evacuation directions.

14.6 Safety

If told to evacuate, leave the area as directed. If the fire cannot be stopped and passes over your home before you and your family evacuate, the safest place for your protection is inside the house with all the doors closed.

15. CLOSING THE INSPECTION

15.1 Explaining Hazards and Violations to the Occupant

Explain all hazardous conditions observed by the tour of inspection in a businesslike but friendly manner. Also clearly explain any observed fire law violation. Make an effort to get the occupant involved in the solution for corrective action. Very often the occupant will offer a solution exceeding the terms that the inspector may be preparing to request. If the occupant has an unreasonable solution or is at a loss for a solution, assume the roll of an advisor and offer suggestions. In this manner the inspector can work out a satisfactory and practical solution to the problem. This has definite advantages: the owner/occupant who is allowed to work out the problem is not only going to feel more satisfied but also is quite likely to be proud of the job. Be constantly on guard to make sure that suggestions are both reasonable and practical. The inspector has not completed the inspection responsibility until every known fire hazard and risk observed on the premises has been pointed out to the inspectee.



Photograph 15.1.
Hazardous Conditions

15.2 Documenting the Inspection

Note all fire law violations and observed hazards and risks on the Interagency Fire Hazard Inspection Notice (LE-38a – [Appendix B](#)) and set a reasonable, but definite time limit for compliance. The more critical the fire weather situation, the more urgent compliance becomes. Also record other observed hazards and risks.

15.3 Closeo

15.4 ut with Homeowner

When you and the inspectee have concluded the inspection, it is important to cover the following points:

- Thank the inspectee for his/her time.
- Be sure to leave the owner/occupant the inspectee's copy of the Interagency Fire Hazard Inspection Notice (LE-38a or R5 5100-209).
- The portion of the inspection notice, which describes how to contact you, is important information to leave with the inspectee.
- Provide fire prevention educational handouts for homeowners.
- Are there any questions concerning the inspection you can answer?
- Leave the property slowly.
- Leave the property exactly the way you found it.

15.4 Follow-Up/Reinspection

Reinspection is the next major step to gaining compliance. If the inspector makes a commitment to return at a particular time or date, make every effort to keep the appointment. A follow-up system is absolutely necessary to make premises inspections effective. Frequent reinspections should be made if existing hazards or risks warrant them. They may require only a short visit but will assist in keeping things in good order and at minimum fire risk.