

State of Idaho
DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

BRAD LITTLE
Governor

700 West State Street, 3rd Floor
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0043
Phone 208-334-4250
Fax 208-334-4398
Website: <https://doi.idaho.gov>

DEAN L. CAMERON
Director

Idaho Department of Insurance News Release

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Contact: Julie Robinson, 208-334-4312

Julie.Robinson@doi.idaho.gov



CONSUMER ALERT – Wildfire season is approaching; take steps today to protect your home and property

BOISE, ID (May 21, 2025) – Following one of the most destructive wildfire seasons in Idaho’s recent history, the Idaho Department of Insurance and State Fire Marshal are urging residents to take proactive steps now to prepare their homes and families before fire strikes.

To help Idahoans stay safe, the DOI and State Fire Marshal recommend the following wildfire mitigation and preparedness tips:

Manage Vegetation Around Your Home

- **Remove** dead vegetation (pine needles, leaves, and other flammable debris), especially within the first five feet of your home, including gutters, rooflines, porches, and decks.
- **Prune** shrubs and tree branches that are within five feet of your home or attachments.
- **Trim** tree branches so the lowest limbs are 6–10 feet above ground level to prevent fire from reaching the tree canopy.
- **Dispose** of yard waste like clippings, branches, and leaves to reduce fuel for wildfires.
- **Maintain** your lawn and keep it watered. If grass is brown, cut it down to minimize fire risk.

Safeguard Your Home

- **Screen and seal** vents and other openings to prevent embers from entering the home.
- **Install** working smoke detectors and fire extinguishers; check them annually.
- **Use** fire-resistant plants and mulch in your landscaping.
- **Inspect and repair** roof shingles or tiles. Class A fire-rated roofing offers the best protection.
- **Store away** flammable outdoor items like cushions and potted plants during fire season.
- **Consider** fire-resistant building materials when constructing or remodeling a home. These can offer added protection at comparable costs.

Be Prepared

- **Review** your insurance policy with your agent to ensure adequate coverage.
- **Create** a home inventory by photographing or filming valuable possessions.
- **Store** critical documents (all insurance policies, contact numbers, inventory lists) in a secure, accessible place.

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- **Make** an evacuation plan, practice routes, and identify nearby shelters. Choose an out-of-area emergency contact.
- **Pack** a go-bag with essentials such as medications, documents, and clothing in case of sudden evacuation.
- **Help your neighbors**, especially those who may need assistance preparing.

“Wildfire threats are becoming more frequent and more severe,” said Dean L. Cameron, Director of the Idaho Department of Insurance. “Preparation today can save homes and lives tomorrow. We strongly encourage to act now – before the next emergency.”

The Idaho Department of Insurance has developed a [detailed handout](#) outlining these tips and offering additional resources. For more information or questions, Idaho residents can contact DOI Consumer Affairs at consumeraffairs@doi.idaho.gov or call 208-334-4319.

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About the Department of Insurance

The Idaho Department of Insurance has been regulating the business of insurance in Idaho since 1901. The mission of the Department is to serve and protect Idahoans by equitably, effectively and efficiently administering the Idaho Insurance Code and the International Fire Code. For more information, please visit us at doi.idaho.gov or contact consumeraffairs@doi.idaho.gov.

About the Idaho State Fire Marshal

The State Fire Marshal’s Office participates in and coordinates an integrated statewide system designed to protect human life from fire and explosions through fire prevention, investigation and public education activities. The program involves fire prevention activities, fire/arson investigation, code enforcement and the operation of the National Fire Incident Reporting System. The State Fire Marshal’s Office provides assistance to local fire agencies throughout the state.