



Latah County Idaho  
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MAY 2024  
 NEWSLETTER

**2024 CALENDAR**

Next meeting – June 5th, 2024, at 6:30 pm at Latah County Fairgrounds – Team building exercise.

**WILDFIRE EVACUATION CHECKLIST & PREPARE YOUR PETS FOR DISASTERS**

May is *National Wildfire Preparedness* month while June is *Pet Preparedness* month so we will cover both these topics!

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. These preparedness tips can apply to any situation where evacuation is necessary. Plan, prepare, and practice these simple tips that can help make leaving your home quicker, easier, and safer in the event of a wildfire and reduce your risk of injury.

Your pets are an important member of your family, so they need to be included in your family’s emergency plan. To prepare for the unexpected follow these tips with your pets in mind: (1) make a plan, (2) build an emergency kit, and (3) stay informed.



**PRE-FIRE: PLAN**

- Sign up to receive local emergency alerts and warnings on all home phones, cellphones, and other devices.
- Know what your community’s emergency notification and evacuation plans are.
- Plan an evacuation route away from your home and other alternate routes in case the first route is closed or threatened by wildfire.
- Make sure your designated contact knows your plan and to communicate with you to know you are safe.
- Know the evacuation plans for locations where household members regularly are such as workplaces, schools, and commuter routes.
- Plan to evacuate family, friends, or neighbors who have disabilities.

**PRE-FIRE: PREPARE AND PRACTICE**

- Prepack emergency supply kits.
- Back vehicles into your garage or park them in an open space facing the direction of escape. Keep the gas tank in vehicles at least half full.
- Practice often with everyone in your home, using at least two ways out of your neighborhood.
- Participate in community wildfire drills. If something could keep you from leaving successfully, such as a locked gate, address it immediately.
- Practice evacuating animals and pets, including how to operate trailers and other vehicles needed to transport. Know what resources are needed for their care.



## **DURING A WILDFIRE EVENT**

- ☑ Charge all cellphones in case of power loss.
- ☑ Know the local fire conditions and be prepared to leave at a moment's notice.
- ☑ Leave early if you are concerned. It may take more time than you think to evacuate due to heavier traffic and decreased visibility, or if you have small children, pets or livestock, or physical challenges.
- ☑ Go promptly when told to evacuate.
- ☑ Don't drive out with trailers or large vehicles like RVs, especially if you are unfamiliar with operating them. A stalled or abandoned vehicle makes it hard for others to leave and first responders to arrive.
- ☑ Keep your car windows up and the air conditioning on to prevent embers and smoke from entering the vehicle. Continue to listen for additional evacuation instructions.



## **BUILD A KIT FOR YOUR PET**

- **Food and water** – keep several day's supply of both and have a water bowl.
- **Medicine** – keep an extra supply that your pet takes on a regular basis in a waterproof container.
- **First aid kit** – items appropriate for your pet's medical needs.
- **Traveling bag, crate, or sturdy carrier for each pet.**
- **Grooming items** – pet shampoo and other items to clean your pet.
- **Picture of you and your pet together** – to help you document ownership and allow others to assist you in identifying your pet.
- **Sanitation needs** – such as pet litter and box, trash bags, and other items that may be needed.
- **Familiar items** – favorite toys, treats, or bedding to reduce stress for your pet.

## **PREPARE YOUR PETS FOR DISASTERS**

Remember to make a plan, build an emergency kit, and stay informed. If you have a plan in place for you and your pets, you will likely encounter less difficulty, stress, and worry when you need to make a decision during an emergency.

## **THINGS TO INCLUDE IN YOUR PLAN:**

- ☒ **Know what to do with your pet during an evacuation.** Many public shelters and hotels do not allow pets inside. Know a safe place where you can take your pets before disasters and when emergencies happen.
- ☒ **Develop a buddy system.** Plan with neighbors, friends, and relatives to make sure that someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so.
- ☒ **Have copies of your pet's vaccination record, and make sure your pet is microchipped.** Keep your address and phone number up-to-date and include an emergency contact outside of your immediate area.
- ☒ **Keep contact information for your local emergency management office or animal control office and shelters on hand in case you become separated from your pet.**



Sources:  
Ready.Gov  
and  
USFA.FEMA.  
Gov by V.  
Lawrence,  
Latah CERT



## **STAY INFORMED**

Stay informed of current conditions and know how you will receive emergency alerts and warnings. **Download the FEMA app** to get weather alerts for up to five different locations anywhere in the United States. Always bring your pets indoors at the first sign or warning of a storm. For more information about how to prepare your pets, visit [Ready.gov/pets](https://www.ready.gov/pets).