



# Get Firewise with a Wildfire Action Plan

## What is Firewise Cymru?

Wildfire is an uncontrolled vegetation fire - often referred to as a grassfire - which involves heath, grassland, forest, or agricultural land. It can have a devastating impact on nearby homes, so it is very important that people living close to these areas are prepared.

in partnership with:



Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub  
De Cymru  
South Wales  
Fire and Rescue Service



South Wales Fire and Rescue Service is supporting communities to take practical steps around their homes and gardens to reduce their risk from wildfires.

This leaflet outlines actions you can take to protect yourself and neighbours should a wildfire occur. From a home safety checklist to an evacuation plan, keep this leaflet handy so you know what to do when there's an emergency.

## Evacuation Plan

When action is needed, stay safe by familiarising yourself with an evacuation plan. You may find it useful to pre-pack your essentials into a bag or box. Include valuables, medication, money and clothing, Photograph important documents and passports (including policy numbers).

## In an emergency **GET OUT** and **STAY OUT!**

- 1 Phone 999** and ask for the Fire Service, giving your location and nearest access points.
- 2 Ensure** your car is facing the right way to evacuate safely without reversing.
- 3 Do not** tackle the fire yourself.
- 4 Follow advice** and guidance from the emergency services or local authority.

## Home Safety Checklist

### Protecting your home

- Prevent embers from entering your roof space by repairing or replacing loose or broken tiles.
- Identify burning ember traps around your home such as places where dead leaves collect naturally e.g. gutters, roof valleys, etc. and clear them.
- Repair any gaps in soffits to ensure burning embers don't get into your roof space. It is a legal requirement to seek advice if you suspect bats are present.
- Move any flammable material away from external house walls such as leaves, compost heaps, log piles etc.
- Ensure your house name/number is clearly visible from the road to help the emergency services respond quickly.

### Protecting your garden

- Trim back shrubs or trees that are close to or touching your house and dispose of cuttings responsibly. Do not put cuttings over your fence as it adds to the fire risk close to your home.

- Consider removing any plants that contain oils and resins etc. especially if they are close to your house, or alternatively plant them in moveable pots.
- Separate flammable plants and items, such as trees, bushes, log piles and patio furniture.
- During hot, dry spells ensure that your garden is maintained and watered regularly.
- Position your shed away from your home to minimise fire travelling.



## Beyond your garden

If your property backs onto or is close to a greenspace, the land manager holds the responsibility to manage the risk to that land. Heathland and forestry landowners/managers, with advice from Natural Resources Wales, manage the habitat to maintain it for key species. These internationally important habitats are subject to legal constraints and land managers will assess fire risk and work with the Fire Service to protect neighbouring homes.

For more information on how to be Firewise and making a Wildfire Action Plan, scan the QR code below or type [bit.ly/FirewiseCymru](https://bit.ly/FirewiseCymru) in a web browser.



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[www.southwales-fire.gov.uk](http://www.southwales-fire.gov.uk)  
[www.naturalresources.wales](http://www.naturalresources.wales)



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