

Firearm Safety in Wildfire Season

This resource provides information specifically on firearm safety before, during, and after a wildfire. For additional resources on how to prepare yourself and your home for a wildfire, explore the [US Government's wildfire resources website](#) and/or the [State of Colorado's Live Wildfire Ready website](#).

BEFORE A FIRE



Help prevent wildfires. Always follow local, county, state, and federal restrictions on recreational firearm use in outdoor areas.

- Be aware of county-, state-, and federal-level fire restrictions for your location. Fire restriction stages commonly ban outdoor shooting in areas at risk of wildfire.

Shooting outdoors can spark a fire by striking rocks or from exploding targets.¹



Be wildfire ready. Have an evacuation plan, including what you will do with your firearms.

- Know which firearms and appropriate ammunition you would take with you in an evacuation.
- Review your insurance coverage.

Fire-resistant safes may protect guns and other valuables for short periods in house fires. Wildfires often burn hotter and longer than a typical house fire and may overwhelm the resistance of even high-quality safes.^{2,3}



Stay alert for evacuation orders. If local authorities advise you to leave, do not hesitate.

- Sign up for your local emergency notification system & follow local law enforcement on social media.
- Consider a free app like ["Watch Duty"](#) which provides real-time tracking and notifications.

DURING EVACUATION



If you take firearms with you, transport them locked and unloaded.

- Know the laws about transporting and carrying firearms in your location and any area where you might travel. Laws may specify how firearms must be stored in vehicles.
- Be aware that temporary shelters may not allow firearms.



If you leave firearms at home, when possible, take steps to make your home safe for first responders and for when you return.

- Guns with chambered ammunition risk spontaneous firing and may injure first responders.
- Ammunition stored in a safe, a cabinet, or factory cartons, presents little risk to first responders if it ignites during a fire, but can be dangerous when you return home.^{4,5,6}

AFTER A FIRE

If you evacuated a location, always check with local authorities before returning.

Carefully inspect firearms and ammunition that may have been exposed to high heat – even if stored in a fire-resistant safe – before using them. Not all damage is obvious.

If you're unsure whether a firearm is safe to use, check with a gunsmith.⁷

Visit tinyurl.com/fswsreferences for a full list of references used in this resource.

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