



# Wildfire preparedness checklist

For businesses and private organizations

Wildfire preparedness is of paramount importance for businesses as wildfires (referred to as bushfires in some regions) pose significant threats to both lives and assets. The impacts of wildfires extend beyond immediate danger, affecting the continuity of operations, employee safety, and the overall economic well-being of communities. As climate change exacerbates the frequency and intensity of wildfires, businesses must recognize the critical need to prepare adequately.

Foremost, the safety of employees and stakeholders is a top priority. A well-prepared business can effectively implement evacuation procedures, reducing the risk of injuries and fatalities. Beyond human safety, wildfires can cause extensive property damage, disrupt supply chains, and lead to financial losses. By proactively implementing measures to safeguard infrastructure, businesses can minimize these risks and maintain operational resilience. It is not only a matter of compliance with regulations but also a strategic move to build a resilient and responsible brand that can weather the challenges posed by an unpredictable climate.



## Below is a comprehensive checklist to support businesses in wildfire preparation efforts:

### **Risk assessment:**

- Conduct a thorough assessment to understand the wildfire risk in your location.
- Identify proximity to high-risk zones and historical wildfire data.

### **Emergency response plan:**

- Establish a dedicated team responsible for plan development.
- Include clear roles and responsibilities for employees.
- Regularly update the plan based on lessons learned and changing risks.

### **Fire-resistant building materials:**

- Use fire-resistant roofing materials.
- Consider flame-retardant siding and windows.
- Retrofit existing structures with fire-resistant features.

### **Firebreaks and defensible space:**

- Regularly clear vegetation around structures.
- Maintain firebreaks to slow the advance of wildfires.
- Consider professional landscaping for fire resistance.

### **Employee training:**

- Train employees in wildfire preparedness, evacuation procedures, and the proper use of firefighting equipment.
- Regularly conduct drills to ensure readiness.
- Provide ongoing education about wildfire risks and safety measures.

### **Wildfire monitoring systems:**

- Invest in advanced wildfire detection technology.
- Ensure real-time monitoring capabilities.
- Establish protocols for responding to monitoring alerts.

### **Smoke and air quality protocols:**

- Provide employees with N95 masks for smoke protection.
- Establish procedures for assessing air quality.
- Consider remote work options during periods of poor air quality.

### **Early warning systems:**

- Invest in early warning systems that provide real-time alerts based on weather conditions and fire behavior.
- Ensure that employees receive timely notifications.

### **Communication protocols:**

- Establish clear communication protocols for wildfire events.
- Utilize multiple channels to disseminate information, including mobile alerts, emails, and on-site announcements.

### **Evacuation planning:**

- Develop and communicate evacuation plans for employees, visitors, and clients.
- Include designated assembly areas and evacuation routes.

### **Collaboration with authorities:**

- Collaborate with local fire departments and emergency services.
- Stay informed about community evacuation plans and integrate your organization's response with local authorities.

### **Post-incident review:**

- Conduct a thorough review of the response to each wildfire.
- Identify areas for improvement in the preparedness plan.
- Update the plan based on lessons learned from incidents.

## How can Everbridge help?

Everbridge offers comprehensive solutions designed to empower businesses in their preparedness and resilience against the devastating impacts of severe weather events. Leveraging state-of-the-art technology and an international perspective, the Everbridge suite of tools enables proactive measures, swift responses, and robust recovery strategies.

Everbridge early warning systems are instrumental in severe weather preparedness, providing real-time alerts based on sophisticated risk intelligence. By integrating weather forecasts, weather event monitoring, and predictive analytics, Everbridge ensures that businesses receive timely notifications, allowing for strategic decision-making and preemptive actions to protect assets and personnel.

The communication capabilities of Everbridge 360 play a pivotal role in crisis management during severe weather events. Everbridge facilitates instant, multi-channel communication, ensuring that critical information reaches the right people at the right time. This includes notifying employees about potential risks, coordinating emergency responses, and disseminating authoritative updates to stakeholders. Such precision in communication is invaluable in averting panic, minimizing disruptions, and, most importantly, ensuring the safety of individuals.

Everbridge Crisis Management and Incident Response products extend beyond the immediate event. They enable businesses to orchestrate a well-coordinated response, manage resources effectively, and implement recovery plans efficiently. By providing a centralized platform for collaboration, Everbridge facilitates seamless communication and decision-making, mitigating the impact of severe weather on operations and bolstering the organization's resilience.

Everbridge goes beyond being merely a tool; we are a strategic partner in fortifying businesses against the unpredictability of severe weather. Our solutions not only ensure a proactive stance against potential risks but also empower organizations to navigate through crises with agility, minimize losses, and emerge stronger in the aftermath.