



**American  
Red Cross**

of Lee County

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## **Warm, dry weather increases wildfire risk** *Lee County residents need to take precautions, preparations*

FORT MYERS, April 5 – As a Fire Weather Watch continues to be in place in Lee County, residents need to take proper precautions.

Wildfires often begin unnoticed. They spread quickly, igniting brush, trees, and homes. Lee County residents can reduce that risk by preparing now before wildfire strikes.

“Something as simple as pulling your car over in an area with tall grass or weeds could ignite a wildfire,” said Carlene Sharples, Disaster Chair for the Lee County Red Cross.

Meet with your family to decide what to do and where to go if wildfires threaten your area. The Red Cross is prepared to provide support and services to first responders and those affected. Follow the steps listed below to protect your family, home, and property.



### **Practice Wildfire Safety**

- **For detailed information on wildfire prevention and preparedness, visit [redcross.org](http://redcross.org)**
- Contact your local fire department, health department, or forestry office for information on wildfire mitigation. Make sure that fire vehicles can get to your home. Clearly mark all driveway entrances and display your name and address.
- Report hazardous conditions that could cause a wildfire.
- Teach children about fire safety. Keep matches out of their reach.
- Post fire emergency telephone numbers.
- Plan several escape routes away from your home by car and by foot.
- Talk to your neighbors about wildfire safety. Plan how the neighborhood could work together after a wildfire. Make a list of your neighbors' skills, such as medical or technical. Consider how you could help neighbors who have special needs, such as elderly or disabled persons. Make plans to take care of children who may be on their own if parents can't get home.

*The Red Cross is dedicated to helping make families and communities safer at home and around the world. It provides training in life-saving skills and mobilizes relief to victims of disasters in addition to assisting members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families. For additional information about the Red Cross and the assistance it provides, making donations, registering for a class or volunteering, call 278-3401, or log on to [arclcc.org](http://arclcc.org). American Red Cross of Lee County is a proud partner of the United Way of Lee County.*