Firefighter and public safety is always our highest priority during wildfires.

- No structure or resource – cultural or natural – is worth a life.
- When wildfires occur, agency administrators and incident managers make difficult decisions to minimize risk and ensure operational success. These decisions sometimes mean firefighters are unable to directly engage on a fire if risks can’t be mitigated to an acceptable level.
- Law enforcement officers and wildland firefighters work together to provide timely evacuation notices so the public can act quickly and safely. These actions are intended to keep the public and firefighters safe.

Preventing wildfires is everyone’s responsibility.

- By training firefighters and prepositioning suppression resources, over 95 percent of wildfires are contained in the initial attack phase. This means tens of thousands of fires are extinguished before becoming large wildfires.
- On average, human-caused wildfires make up 87 percent of all wildfire occurrences annually.
- Fire restrictions and burn bans help communities reduce human-caused ignitions.
- Human-caused wildfires are often in close proximity to roadways, communities and recreational areas, posing considerable threat to public safety.
- Maintaining awareness of fire danger level and current fire restrictions can help you and your community stay safe.

Homeowners and communities can help firefighters by creating space around homes and structures.

- Taking individual responsibility to reduce flammable material around homes and communities before a fire occurs can help keep property, the public, and firefighters safe.
- Creating a buffer between your home and trees, shrubs, or other wildland areas, is essential to improving your home’s chance of surviving a wildfire. Not only does this space help slow or stop the spread of wildfire, it also protects firefighters while they defend your home.

Wildland firefighters perform essential vegetation management treatments.

- Vegetation treatments, such as prescribed fire, mechanical thinning, and biological and chemical spraying are measures firefighters and land managers use to reduce the natural buildup of vegetation.
- Land managers regularly work with stakeholders to strategically select vegetation treatment areas. These treatments are proactive actions designed to protect communities and other values before a wildfire occurs.
- When safe to do so, firefighters will manage naturally occurring wildfires to improve habitat and restore ecological balance to our wildlands.