

Wildfire Go Bags & Evacuation Drills for Kids (Ages 6-13)

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Fire Safety Webinar Series



Announcements

- This webinar is being recorded.
- We will be using this time to focus on child appropriate education. Adults would need different information about an evacuation and different items in their go-bags.
- This webinar is aimed at kids who are not babies. They want to be treated as thinking humans.



Objectives for Fire Educators

- Prepare parents and caregivers to have hard conversations with kids about wildfire
- To have kids understand why the things they pack are in their go bags for wildfire evacuation
- To encourage families to have physical evacuation drills



“It does not do to leave a live dragon out of your calculations if you live near him.”

-J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Hobbit*, Chapter 12

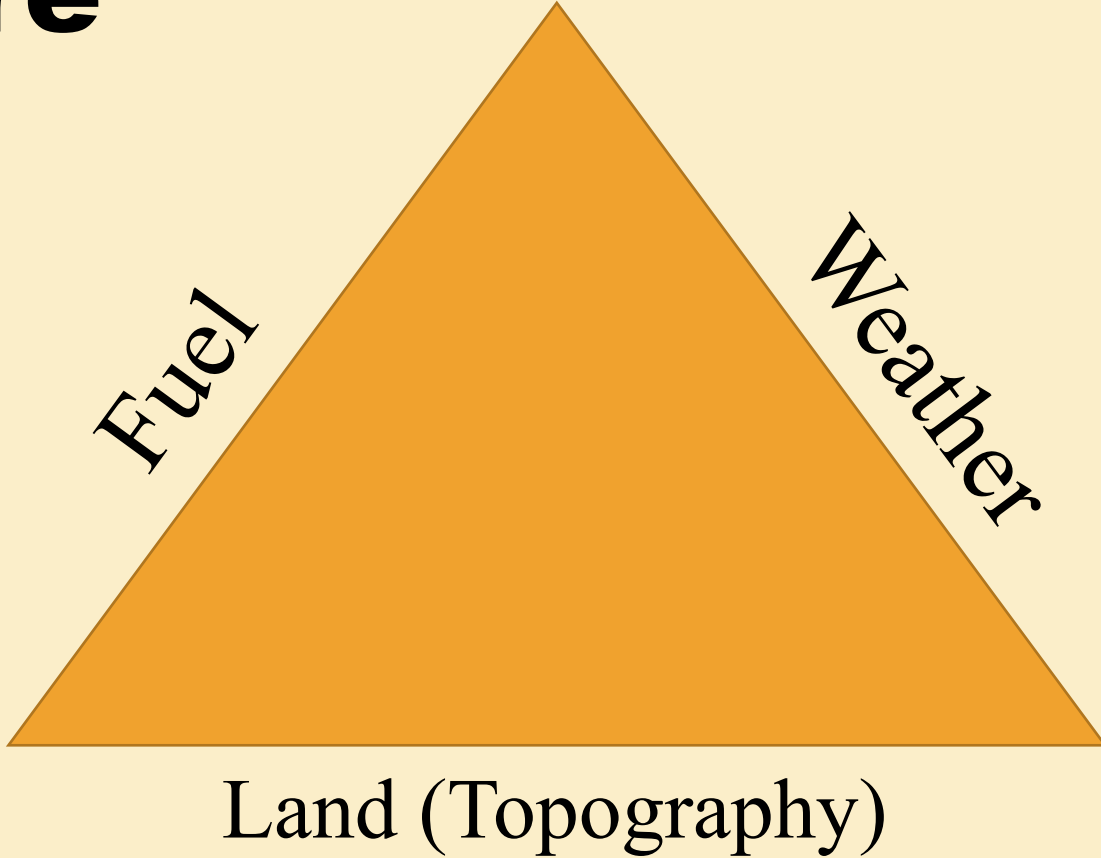


Step 1: Introduce the Conversation

- Communication is key!
 - Balanced: Not overly scary or complacent
- 1: Take a walk with the kids
 - Why we love this place
- 2: Introduce the idea of risk
 - Balanced with preparedness
- 3: Take ACTION
 - *When the world is uncontrollable, we control what we can.*



Step 2: Learn the Basics of Wildfire



Step 3: Know that Fire Can be Good

Sometimes Oregon lets fires burn

Healthy forest

Nuanced concept so balance the information



Step 4: Know the Warning Levels

- Red=Danger (Go!)
 - Leave *now*!
 - Protect ourselves, our neighbors and our firefighters
- Yellow=Be Careful (Be Set)
 - The danger is growing
 - Move bags to the car
- Green=It's okay (Be Ready)
 - We are paying attention
 - We know what is happening around us



Step 5: Memorize Phone Numbers

- Evacuations can happen when kids are not at home
 - School, summer camp, playdates, etc.
- Memorize two entire 10-digit phone numbers
 - Caregiver
 - Family member or friend far away (outside the evacuation zone)
- Even if a child has a cell phone, they may need to call from another line
- Practice it



Step 6: Pack a Go Bag *WITH* Them

*Think Out Loud

#1) Appropriate bag

- Easy to fill & carry
- Backpack, canvas tote, reusable grocery bag, pillowcase

#2) Grocery bags or large freezer bags

- Protect other items
- Contain soiled items
- Illness



Step 6: Pack a Go Bag *WITH* Them

#3) Water

- 1-2 Full individual bottles
- Reusable water bottle (decorated)
- Personal filter

#4) Food

- High protein snacks with a long shelf life
- Special flavors
- Hard candy



Step 6: Pack a Go Bag *WITH* Them

#5) Change of Clothes

- Prioritize socks & underwear
- Stain stick
- Flip flops (shower shoes)
- Check the fit & rotate for seasons
- Signal that you may stay away for a while

#6) First Aid Kit

- Prescriptions, epi-pen, inhaler, etc.
- Bandages (pattern they like)
- Glasses (repair kit or old pair)



Step 6: Pack a Go Bag *WITH* Them

#7) Emergency Whistle

- In case you get separated
- Family call/pattern

#8) Something to do

- Light and non-electronic (do not rely on electricity or internet connections)



Step 6: Pack a Go Bag *WITH* Them

#9) A small blanket

#10) Dust masks

- Smoke particulate protection
- Asthma or other respiratory issues
- Not the same as COVID masking procedures



Step 6: Pack a Go Bag *WITH* Them

#11) Toiletries

- Soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.
- Avoid soap flavored snacks

#12) Flashlight or glow sticks

- Caregivers can still see them

#13) Any other essential this specific child needs (Ask them!)



Step 7: Check Weight and Fit

- Have the child put on the backpack or carry the tote
- Do adjustments need to be made for this child to carry this bag for 300 yards (275 meters)?
- Adjust accordingly



Step 8: Find a Home for the Bags

- Where will you store the bags?
- Convenient to the door they use most
- Place so the child can easily reach them



Step 9: Do a Drill

- Practice! (Just like they do at school)
- Pretend that they need to go
- Practice packing the car & draw a map
- Drive your evacuation route
 - Ask what your phone numbers are



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