



## CITY OF MALIBU

# DON'T BE CAUGHT BY SURPRISE: MAKE YOUR RED FLAG PLAN TO BE PREPARED FOR WILDFIRE SEASON THIS FALL

Wildfire is a natural part of our ecosystem, and has always been Malibu's number one public safety threat. The weather conditions for major fires that threaten lives and homes typically occur between October 1 and December 31, and can be forecast days in advance. Outside that time period, fuel and wind conditions are not ideal for fires to grow large rapidly and spread rapidly into major damaging wildfires. Therefore, Malibu should never be caught by surprise and unprepared. During fire season every fall, and especially whenever Red Flag fire conditions are forecast, everyone in Malibu should be prepared and ready to act quickly, and that means having a Red Flag Fire Plan prepared in advance.

## WHAT ARE RED FLAG FIRE CONDITIONS?

Every year, Malibu experiences 7-8 Red Flag Fire events between October 1 and December 31, as declared by the National Weather Service, totaling about 14-18 days when we have most serious threat of a major fire that can threaten lives and homes and require evacuations. **The criteria for Red Flag events are: humidity at 15% or less, sustained wind speed of 25 MPH or greater for at least six hours** (usually associated with Santa Ana winds).

## HOW TO MAKE YOUR RED FLAG PLAN

As part of the shared responsibility among the City, the community, and first responders, Malibu residents should have a Red Flag Plan that coincides with the Los Angeles County Fire Department's "Ready Set Go" program, which empowers residents to be prepared, and aims to improve community wildfire safety and resilience.



City of Malibu  
**Wildfire Preparedness**

[MalibuCity.org/RedFlagPlan](https://MalibuCity.org/RedFlagPlan)

**Review the County's Ready, Set, Go guide,  
which is a practical, step-by-step guide, at:  
[Fire.LACounty.gov/RSG](https://Fire.LACounty.gov/RSG)**

## READY: BEFORE FIRE SEASON AND RED FLAG CONDITIONS



- Complete your mandatory annual brush clearance.
- Harden your home to make it more resistant and resilient to wildfire.
- Sign up for emergency alerts from the City at **MalibuCity.org/Alerts**, and LA County at **Ready.LACounty.gov/Alerts**.
- Create a profile in the City's Everbridge Disaster notification system to ensure it has your cell phone, secondary phone numbers, and street address. **MalibuCity.org/DisasterNotifications**
- Look up which of Malibu's four evacuation zones your home, workplace and school are in and get familiar with the County's Genasys Protect maps and emergency information platform. **Protect.Genasys.com/Search**
- Download the PulsePoint mobile app (select **LA County Fire Dept., Division 7 + Vegetation Fires**), which gives notifications directly from 911 dispatch, to stay aware of new fire starts in our area. **PulsePoint.org/Download**
- Establish or join your local neighborhood watch and establish a neighborhood phone tree.



## SET: DURING RED FLAG FIRE CONDITIONS



- If you have horses, or are disabled, or rely on mobility devices or medical devices, consider leaving the area during Red Flag Fire conditions.
- Ensure vehicles are fueled up.
- Disengage your electric garage door and put it in manual mode so you can open it when the power is out.
- Keep vehicles packed with emergency bag, important documents, clothing, medications, and pet supplies.
- Move flammable materials, propane tanks, and furniture away from the house.
- Arrange temporary lodging outside the area and know how to get there. Remember to plan for your pets.

## GO: EVACUATE WHEN DIRECTED BY AUTHORITIES

- Evacuate promptly when authorities issue an evacuation order.
- Close windows, pull back flammable window shades, and turn all lights on.
- Close interior doors and open all exterior gates.
- Homes and possessions can be rebuilt and replaced, but lives cannot.
- Firefighters prioritize life safety first, and when people do not evacuate, it draws firefighting resources away from protecting homes.

