



## Introduction — Wildland Fires

Wildland fires, otherwise known as forest fires, cause a great deal of damage every year in the United States. As residential development moves into previously undeveloped areas, more communities are threatened by wildland fires.

For example, the 1991 wildland fires in Oakland, California, caused 26 deaths and 148 injuries. Over 3,000 structures were destroyed and over 5,000 people were left homeless. Damage was estimated at \$1.5 billion.

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), all wooded, brush and grassy areas are at risk. Wildland fires can be prevented. Four out of five wildland fires are started by people, not nature. This chapter provides you with information about wildland fires, how to prevent them, and how to build structures within areas at risk of wildland fires.

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