

Ready on the Farm! -Transcription

VIDEO 1.

Increase your farm's resilience to wildfires

There are three key things to keep in mind.

1. Reduce your farm's risk to wildfires:

Remove fire hazards and create defensible space between 15 -20 feet around your home and buildings. Keep this area around your home and buildings Lean, Clean and Green. Trim and prune trees and shrubs 100 feet from all structures. Manage your forest health and fuel load on your property by thinning forests, grazing grasses and removing dead and down debris. Identify a defensible area for animals, vehicles, equipment in the event of a fire. Such as irrigated pasture, gravel or concrete.

2. Create and practice a wildfire Disaster Response plan for your farm.

Your disaster response plan should have communication, evacuation and rapid-response tasks for your farm. We'll go into more depth in the next videos!.

3- Design a recovery plan after a disaster

Having an active relationship with farmer's support agencies such as government institutions FSA, NRCS or non profit organizations, can be useful to get access to disaster aid during or after an emergency. Get appropriate insurance to protect yourself against losses due to fire, evacuation and smoke damage. This includes buildings, structures, equipment, crops, livestock and your home. Meet with your insurance agent regularly to review your coverage. Take a video inventory of any valuable aspects of your farm, such as your toolshed, for easier reimbursement.

VIDEO 2

Disaster Response Planning for farmers:

Disasters can bring multiple consequences to your farm such as damages caused by smoke, ashes, power outages, fire, floods, mudslides or structures' collapse.

To prepare, you need to have an emergency response plan in place with at least the following elements:

1- Communications plan

Create a communication plan with all your family members, farm-crew, neighbors and back-up support. Establish an emergency communications protocol including an out of area contact in case local phone lines are down, have on hand communication equipment such as two-way radios, walkie-talkies or megaphone and a safe place to meet outside of the disaster's area. List important phone numbers and place them in accessible areas of your farm.

2- Evacuation and shelter-in-place plan

The ability for you to **evacuate** your farm and for emergency responders to identify and safely access your property during an emergency is critical. Make sure your road is at least 20 feet wide and has 15 feet vertical clearance to make room for emergency vehicles. You can call your local fire department and have them visit your farm every 3 years for a safety check and so they know how to best protect it. Make sure you have at least two or more roads in and out of your property and open all gates during an emergency. Have two evacuation routes that all farm personnel know.

If you have children going to school, coordinate with school personnel and family members to establish where children should be evacuated in case you cannot pick them up.

Plan where you will go after an evacuation. Friends and family's houses are the best option. There are also public shelters.

Have back-up plans for water, fuel, feed, emergency supplies and electricity for all humans, livestock and crops for 3-7 days. Plan on how you will irrigate or store your crops such as a backup generator; and water and feed for your livestock if you have to evacuate. You may not be able to reach them or you may lose electricity for several days or weeks. Test your backup generators regularly and have enough fuel to run them. Make sure you have a safe place to relocate or shelter your animals. If markets or sales channels become inaccessible, have an emergency storage and emergency marketing strategy for your crops. Have at least two evacuation routes, talk to your neighbors to get access if needed. Make sure all farm personnel also know these routes.

3- Rapid response farm tasks plan

During a disaster you may have to quickly evacuate and shelter-in-place and you might not be able to talk to your crew. A rapid response plan with delegated responsibilities is essential to assuring that key tasks get done and everyone stays safe. Make sure you train and practice your plan at least once per year with farm crew, neighbors, family and back-up personnel. Conducting a mock emergency evacuation can greatly reduce loss and stress during an actual emergency!

VIDEO 3

Remember that as the main operator of your farm you are responsible for designing, socializing and practicing a **disaster response plan**, and it should include:

1. Emergency **escape procedures and routes, shelter-in-place locations, and rally points for all farm personnel**
2. Procedures for reporting emergencies and to account for workers including emergency contacts
3. A chain of command to address problems and to coordinate the work
4. **Farm and workplace maps** with clear indication of where
 - a. water sources are located.
 - b. Farm inventory that includes location of livestock, buildings and structures, and farm machinery/equipment
 - c. Electrical, gas and water shut-off locations,
 - d. Location of needed supplies, such as sandbags, fire extinguishers, gas-powered generation and hand tools
 - e. The location of primary and secondary areas to **relocate** farm assets and workers
 - f. Location of buildings in the vicinity that can be used as a command post or logistical assistance area
5. Physical or digital copies of important documents such as passports, driver's licenses, social security cards, cash etc.
6. An **evacuation kit** for you, your family, your pets, and your animals should be in an easy-to-carry suitcase and should include protective implements such as masks (for smoke a mask with respirator) or (safety) glasses, non-perishable food, water, medicine, flashlight, radio, batteries and natural fiber clothing, avoid easily burning synthetic fibers. Have cash on hand to cover expenses for at least 7 days in case your products cannot be sold or you lose them. If you anticipate downed trees or other obstacles on your way out, include a power saw and other tools in your evacuation kit.
7. A **shelter-in-place kit** for you, your family, your pets, and your animals. Very similar to the evacuation kit, but you can have more food and water, also materials such as duct tape, towels, and blankets store it in boxes in the place where you plan to shelter in the event you cannot evacuate during a disaster..

Conduct Farm exercises and drills annually. Train all your crew in the response plan and in the specific tasks that they will be responsible for during the emergency