

## September is National Preparedness Month - A Great Time to Work Toward Becoming Fire Adapted

September is National Preparedness Month (NPM), and FEMA, America's PrepareAthon! and Ready.gov have teamed up to encourage people across the nation to evaluate which types of natural disaster affect their areas. A key component of NPM is National PrepareAthon! Day. Watch [the campaign's video](#) for inspiration to register and prepare for disaster in your community!

[Explore the PrepareAthon! site](#) to learn about the different types of disaster, in which areas they are most prevalent and to get started establishing a plan. The campaign encourages participants to prepare their homes and communities for disaster in three different ways: "Be Smart. Take Part. Prepare." Explore the steps to prepare before a wildfire, plan how to take action in your community on September 30, find additional resources to share with your community and read the tragic and compelling story of a family who lost their home to wildfire earlier this year.

In Nevada, where wildfire is a part of our landscape, we appreciate efforts to educate and to boost awareness. PrepareAthon! holds to the tried-and-true idea of the importance of a homeowner preparing before a wildfire, and being ready to evacuate when one threatens.

Living With Fire's [Fire Adapted Communities: The Next Step in Wildfire Preparedness](#) describes the five elements of a community that has taken steps to prepare and to significantly reduce their wildfire threat. A Fire Adapted Community has *community protection* with well-designed fuel breaks and safe areas, *defensible space* in the proper management of vegetation surrounding the homes, *built environments* that afford appropriate home construction and are maintained to resist ignition, good *access* to help emergency responders arrive in a timely manner and has taken measures to be able to *evacuate* safely and effectively when a wildfire threatens.

Register for PrepareAthon! today, take action to prepare for disaster in your community and peruse the terrific [information on wildfire preparation](#) from FEMA.