

Business emergency kit for wildfires

An emergency kit, specially tailored for businesses facing wildfires, should be well-equipped to cater to the immediate needs of the business and its employees. Here's a suggested list for consideration and collection:

Essential Documents

- Copies of business licenses, insurance policies, contracts, lease agreements, and other critical business documents in a waterproof bag or container.
- An updated list of employee and key stakeholder contact details.
- Emergency service contacts, including local fire departments, hospitals, and utility companies.

Communication devices

- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio.
- Extra fully charged mobile phone batteries or power banks.
- A whistle to signal for help.

First aid kit

- Sterile gauze and bandages in various sizes.
- Antiseptic wipes and antibiotic ointment.
- Pain relievers (e.g., aspirin or non-aspirin pain relievers).
- Tweezers, scissors, and a digital thermometer.
- A CPR face shield and first-aid manual.

Safety supplies

- N95 respirator masks (or higher-grade) to protect against prolonged smoke inhalation, now more common in recent wildfire events.
- Safety goggles for eye protection.
- Leather work gloves.

Flashlights and batteries

- Keep several flashlights or headlamps, with extra batteries stored in a waterproof bag.

Water and non-perishable food

- A minimum of one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days.
- Non-perishable food items like energy bars, canned goods (with a manual can opener), and dried fruits.

It's recommended to plan for at least **5 to 7 days** of supplies, especially for businesses in remote or high-risk wildfire zones.

Cash and small change

- Keep cash on hand in case electronic payment methods are down.

Multipurpose tool

- Something like a pocketknife or multi-screwdriver to turn off utilities or serve multiple functions in a pinch.

Clothing and blankets

- A change of clothing for each employee, stored in waterproof bags. You might consider vacuum sealing these bags to make them easier to carry.
- Compact emergency blankets.

Business emergency kit for wildfires (*continued*)

Specialty items

- Medications for employees who might need them (ensure regular checks for expiration dates).
- Baby wipes, feminine hygiene products, and other personal hygiene items.
- Special requirements for infants or individuals with specific needs.
- Mental health resources: Include contact info for your Employee Assistance Program (EAP), local counseling services, or mental health crisis lines. Employees may experience increased anxiety during and after wildfire events.

Local maps

- For identifying evacuation routes or alternative routes in case primary paths are compromised.

Backup keys

- To the business premises and company vehicles.

Chargers

- Assorted chargers for different types of phones and a charger for your car. Consider solar-powered or hand-crank charger(s) for power outages.

Signaling supplies

- Flares or reflective triangles can be useful if you need to signal for help, especially at night.

Pet care supplies

- If employees might bring pets to the workplace, include pet care supplies such as food, water, leashes, and carriers to accommodate them during a wildfire.

Remember, check and update the contents of your emergency kit at least twice a year to ensure everything remains functional and up to date. Rotate out expired items, refresh employee contact details, and adjust contents based on seasonal needs or changes in team size. It's also a good idea to customize the kit further based on any unique needs or characteristics of your business and its location.



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