

BE

WILDFIRE

READY

Protect your home and family



**Dear Bainbridge Islanders,**

Wildfires are an increasing hazard in our community. Many island homes are in semi-isolated areas surrounded by dense vegetation or near greenbelts, while others are in neighborhoods with reduced spacing between structures. Our vegetation and forests are in conditions that can fuel high-intensity, fast-moving fires. Though some residents assume wildfire isn't a concern west of the Cascades, changing climate patterns are heightening wildfire risks throughout the whole Puget Sound region.

**Protecting our island requires a collective effort. There are steps we can all take to reduce wildfire risk:**

- 1 Prepare Your Family** – Create a family emergency plan, build a go-bag for quick evacuation, and stay ready.
- 2 Prepare Your Home & Property**– Maintain defensible space using Firewise principles.
- 3 Work Together with Your Neighbors** – Participate in Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) preparedness programs.
- 4 Receive Emergency Alerts** – Sign up for emergency alerts via Nixle by texting 98110 to 888777.
- 5 Know the Island's Evacuation Plan** – Know the *Ready, Set, Go* evacuation levels.

With appreciation,



**Blair King**

City of Bainbridge Island City Manager



**Jared Moravec**

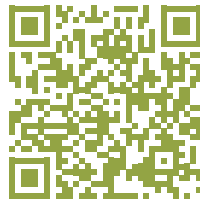
Bainbridge Island Fire Department Fire Chief

# 1 Prepare Your Family

First responders and City staff build community-wide disaster-response plans, but it's essential for each of us to prepare our own families and neighborhoods. In a major emergency, crews will be overwhelmed, so being ready to rely on family and community support is critical. Preparedness starts at home with an emergency plan and at least two weeks of supplies (a month is better!)—water, food, medicine, and first aid—for your household and pets.



Scan the QR Code to learn how to build a two-weeks ready kit, make a family disaster plan, and personally prepare for a disaster:



Join us for the **Annual Day of Preparedness**

September 20, 2025, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
at Fire Station 21 (8895 Madison Ave. NE).

Build resilience and get prepared with informational booths, hands-on resources, and free emergency supplies.

If you have life supporting medical equipment at home that relies on electricity, contact Puget Sound Energy (PSE) Customer Care at **1-888-225-5773** to apply for Life Support status. When a customer account is approved for Life Support status, a seal is placed on the electric meter to ensure that field personnel know that critical medical equipment is in use at the residence. Customers with Life Support status on their account also receive advanced notice for scheduled outages.



# 2 Prepare Your Home and Property: Create Defensible Space

Creating defensible space is one of the most effective ways to reduce wildfire risk to your home. This buffer between your home and surrounding vegetation helps slow or stop wildfire spread; shields against embers, heat, and flames; and provides firefighters with a safer area from which to defend your property. Work through the three zones (see below). Larger actions, like tree removal or work in sensitive areas, may require a permit and review by the City Arborist to ensure protection of critical areas, shorelines, heritage trees, and environmentally sensitive zones as required by state and city regulations.



Defensible space is typically divided into three zones:

**Immediate Zone (0–5 feet from your home)**

**Start Here!**

Focus on removing combustible materials and maintaining a fire-resistant perimeter. (See chart on page 3 on what you can do near your home now without a permit.)

**Intermediate Zone (5–30 feet from your home)**

Reduce vegetation density and ladder fuels to slow fire spread.

**Expanded Zone (30–100 feet from your home)**

Manage landscape to reduce fuel load while preserving natural beauty and ecosystem health.

Start Here Today

# IMMEDIATE ZONE

0-5' from the exterior of the house

FIREWISE BEST PRACTICE	SHORELINE AREAS	CRITICAL AREAS	AQUIFER RECHARGE PROTECTION AREA	ALL OTHER AREAS
Clean roofs and gutter of dead leaves, debris, and pine needles.	●	●	●	●
Replace or repair any loose or missing shingles or roof tiles to prevent ember penetration,	●	●	●	●
Reduce embers that could pass through vents in the eaves, soffits, foundation, and crawlspace by installing 1/8-inch metal screening.	●	●	●	●
Remove debris that may accumulate at roof-to-wall intersections. Embers from a fireplace can exit the chimney and could ignite a wildfire; to prevent this, install a spark arrestor.	●	●	●	●
Screen or box-in areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating.	●	●	●	●
Move any flammable material away from wall exteriors—mulch, leaves and needles, firewood piles—anything that can burn. Remove anything stored underneath decks and porches.	●	●	●	●
Remove any small, flammable shrubs and plants.	●	●	●	●
Trim tree limbs that overhang from immediate zone into this area.	●	●	●	●
Use non-flammable fencing materials when attaching directly to siding. Do not add vines or other types of vegetation to fencing. Wooden fences can carry flames directly to the house.	●	●	●	●

**GO!**

● Best practice can be implemented without any additional permitting, requirements or approvals.

**CERTIFIED ARBORIST NEEDED**

● Allowed if work is done by certified arborist.

**STOP! REVIEW MAY BE REQUIRED**

● Vegetation or tree removal may be subject to City of Bainbridge Island review and preapproval. Contact the City Arborist for more information.

City Arborist: [arborist@bainbridgewa.gov](mailto:arborist@bainbridgewa.gov) • (206) 867-7984

**THREE things you can do today:**



Clean roofs and gutters of dead leaves, debris, and pine needles.



Move any flammable materials like mulch, leaves, pine needles, and firewood piles (anything that can burn) away from exterior walls.



Remove flammable items from underneath decks and porches.

View all zone charts here:



For more information on wildfire preparedness visit [bifd.org/fire-safety](http://bifd.org/fire-safety) or scan here:



## 3 Work with Your Neighbors Through Map Your Neighborhood

Map Your Neighborhood is a community-based disaster preparedness program that helps neighbors organize, plan, and respond effectively in the critical moments after a disaster, when outside help may be delayed. The program teaches immediate safety actions, how to coordinate people and resources, and how to support vulnerable neighbors. By planning ahead, neighborhoods can reduce the serious impacts of disasters and strengthen their collective response.

Scan the QR Code to learn more and get started:



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U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
SEATTLE, WA  
Permit No. 2400

CITY OF  
BAINBRIDGE  
ISLAND  
280 Madison Ave. N.  
Bainbridge Island, WA  
98110

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*\*\*  
POSTAL CUSTOMER

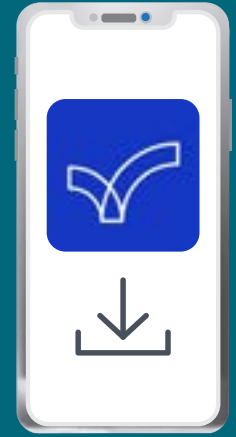
## 4 Receive Emergency Alerts

The City of Bainbridge Island uses Nixle for official emergency alerts, keeping islanders informed about urgent events like severe weather, wildfires, and road closures.

To sign up, text **98110** to **888777** or visit [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com) to register. Text "Email" to 888777 to get email updates as well.

Download the **Everbridge Nixle app** on your smartphone to receive alerts via Wi-Fi, even if cellular data is unavailable, helping you stay connected during emergencies.

If you don't use a mobile device, you can register your landline to receive emergency voice messages. To sign up, contact Island Volunteer Caregivers (IVC) at 206-842-4441 or the Bainbridge Island Senior/Community Center at 206-842-1616. Many thanks to IVC and the Senior Center for helping maintain a roster of individuals without mobile devices who wish to receive emergency alerts.



## 5 Evacuation – What you need to know

**Evacuation Zones:** Bainbridge Island is divided into 12 evacuation zones, making it critical for every resident to **Know Your Zone**.

In an emergency, Nixle emergency text and email alerts will inform islanders which zones must evacuate and which routes to take. Evacuation routes will vary depending on the hazard but generally will direct people away from the hazard.

**Evacuation Levels:** During a wildfire on Bainbridge Island, Nixle emergency alerts will use Kitsap County's evacuation levels to let the community know what actions to take:

# KITSAP COUNTY EVACUATION LEVELS

LEVEL **1** READY

Possible evacuation in your area.

Be aware of the danger in your area, and start preparing to evacuate.

LEVEL **2** SET

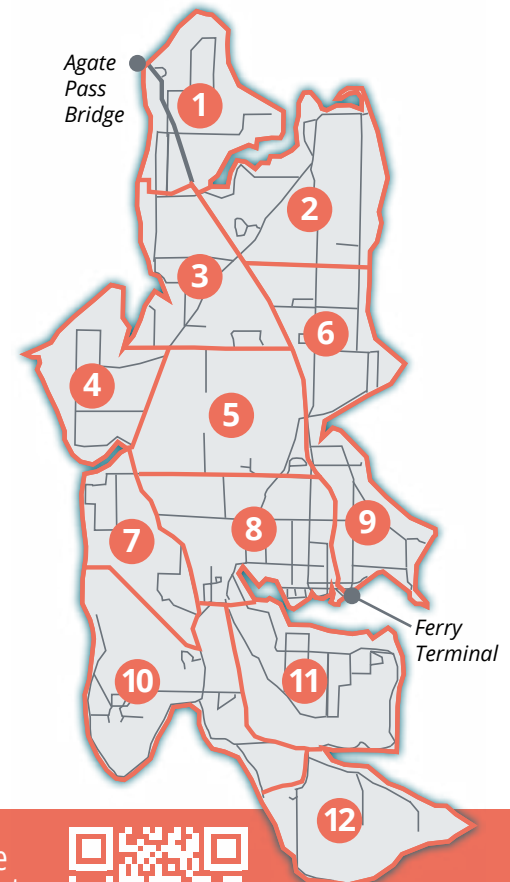
Short notice evacuation likely in your area.

Be prepared for sudden evacuation; leave now if you need extra time.

LEVEL **3** GO!

Evacuate immediately from your area.

LEAVE NOW!  
Danger in your area.



Scan the QR code to learn more and find your zone:

