



*Proudly providing resilience education and training in the Shenandoah Valley since 2000.*

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# Resiliency Digest

May 2022

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*News & tips for being ready  
before, during, and after emergencies.*

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*Nine out of ten wildfires are caused by humans.  
That means nine out of ten wildfires can be prevented.*

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## Wildfire Prevention Is Up to You

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In rural areas like the Shenandoah Valley, many of us live in and around wildlands. Understanding the fire-prone nature of these ecosystems and what can be done to protect them is the first step towards alleviating the start and spread of wildfires.

The familiar Smokey the Bear tips are not just for kids! It pays to remember Smokey's Five Rules of Wildfire Prevention before you do anything with fire.

- 🐻 Only you can prevent wildfires.
- 🐻 Always be careful with fire.
- 🐻 Never play with matches or lighters.
- 🐻 Always watch your campfire.
- 🐻 Make sure your campfire is completely out before leaving it.



And don't forget Smokey's rules don't just apply to campfires; they are good rules to remember for any fire. Here are some additional precautions to add to your wildfire safety toolbox.

### **Debris Burning**

Did you know Virginia's leading cause of wildfires is unwanted debris-burning fire escapes? Before you decide to dispose of yard waste in a burn pile, check with local

authorities and review the following safe burning practices:

### [Debris Burning Precautions](#)

#### **Vehicle Safety**

Many roadside wildfires occur because of careless motorists. Don't let your vehicle be the cause of a wildfire! Note the following hazards and take steps to avoid them:

### [Vehicle Precautions](#)



#### **Home Preparation**

Studies of wildfires have shown that homes ignite due to the condition of the structure and everything up to 200 feet from the foundation. Homeowners can prepare their homes to minimize the likelihood of flames or surface fire touching the home or any attachments with these steps:

### [Home Precautions](#)

#### **Responding During & After a Wildfire**

If, in spite of all precautions, a wildfire does occur, be sure to know how you should respond. Staying tuned to instructions from local authorities; knowing the evacuation route and location of shelters; having necessary items packed for quick departure;

and understanding how to act when returning home can make a huge difference to the safety and well-being of you and your family!

[During/After a Wildfire Precautions](#)

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## National Building Safety Month

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The banner features a teal background with a white house icon on the left containing a globe. To the right of the house, the text "BUILDING SAFETY MONTH" is written in white, followed by "2022" in large white and orange numbers. Below this, a dark blue bar contains the text "Safety for All:" in white. Underneath, "BUILDING CODES IN ACTION" is written in grey. At the bottom, four icons represent the weekly themes: a lightbulb for "Week 1: May 1-8 Energy and Innovation", a hard hat for "Week 2: May 9-15 Building Safety Careers", a flame for "Week 3: May 16-22 Disaster Preparedness", and a water drop for "Week 4: May 23-31 Water Safety".

**BUILDING SAFETY MONTH 2022**

**Safety for All:**

**BUILDING CODES IN ACTION**

**Week 1:**  
May 1-8  
Energy and Innovation

**Week 2:**  
May 9-15  
Building Safety Careers

**Week 3:**  
May 16-22  
Disaster Preparedness

**Week 4:**  
May 23-31  
Water Safety

While you're catching up on preparing your home for wildfires, why not take advantage of National Building Safety Month to check out other safety and sustainability aspects of your home? The International Code Council has put together a great library of resource materials on topics like alarms, electricity, yard/pool, appliances, mold, and more to help you know what to look for! They even have materials to help the kids join in.

[Building Safety Resources](#)

[Kids Corner](#)

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## Hurricane Preparedness Week

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Hurricane preparedness doesn't have to be complicated.

- Build a kit
- Write down important information
- Talk with your family
- Remember your pets

[More Tips](#)

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**Is It Time to Replace Your Hand Sanitizer?**

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Unlike fine wine, hand sanitizer doesn't age well with time. It has been two years since the COVID-19 pandemic started and for some of us that is when we bought the bottle of hand sanitizer we are still using. Things you might not know:

- Most sanitizers last between 2-3 years. Bottles have an expiration data printed on them – take a look!
- Don't keep hand sanitizer in a hot car, especially in the summer for long periods of time.
- Store bottles in a cool dry, place.
- Expired hand sanitizer isn't dangerous but it is less effective.

For additional resources to help protect yourself, loved ones, and property, visit the [National Weather Service](#), [Ready.gov](#), [U.S. Fire Administration](#), and the [National Safety Council](#).

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