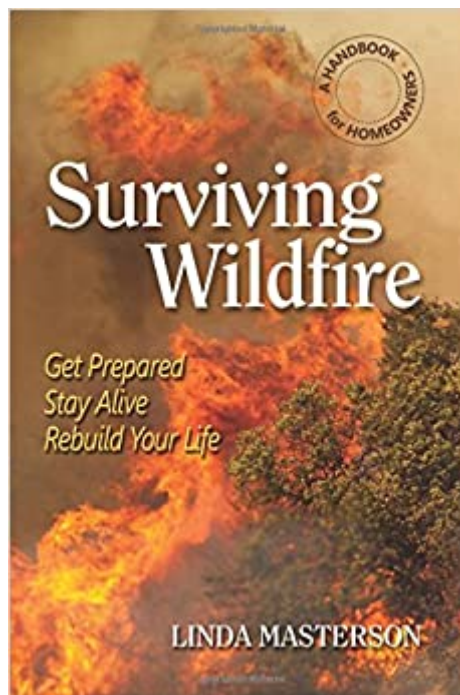




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# Surviving Wildfire: Get Prepared, Stay Alive, Rebuild Your Life (A Handbook For Homeowners)



## Synopsis

Every year wildfire destroys thousands of homes, devastates countless lives and burns millions of acres. And every year people who've lost everything say: We didn't think it would happen to us. If only we'd been better prepared. Now homeowners have a straight-talking handbook to help them get prepared, stay alive when wildfire threatens, and rebuild their lives if disaster strikes. Author and researcher Linda Masterson knows what it's like to flee a wall of flames in the middle of night, with just minutes to escape with her life and very little else. Her home burned to the ground in Colorado's Crystal Fire in 2011.

Surviving Wildfire - Overview of Contents - Assessing Your Risk - Firewise Building and Remodeling - Defensible Space You Can Live With - Advance Planning: A Pound of Prevention Can Save a Ton of Trouble - Evacuation Essentials: What to Take, When to Leave, How to Escape - Insurance: How Much You Need, What It Covers, How It Works - Filing a Claim: Insider Tips and Tactics - Recovery: Picking Up Your Pieces and Starting Over - Our Story

## Book Information

Paperback: 144 pages

Publisher: PixyJack Press (November 15, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1936555158

ISBN-13: 978-1936555154

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.4 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,316,914 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #25 in [Books > Business & Money > Insurance > Property](#) #862 in [Books > Science & Math > Earth Sciences > Natural Disasters](#) #1055 in [Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Safety & First Aid](#)

## Customer Reviews

This book is a wake-up call for anyone who lives with wildfire risk. It is solidly researched, easy to read and reference, and full of information that could save homes...and lives. --Dave Zadar, a long-time fire manager in Boulder, Colorado

A very compelling read and extremely informative. The combination of the author's real-life experience and her diligent research makes this a very helpful handbook for people living with the risk of wildfire --Michele Steinberg, Manager Firewise Communities Program, National Fire Protection Association

I will definitely recommend *Surviving Wildfire* to homeowners and insurance professionals; it is a great, comprehensive resource!

Masterson explains everything in understandable, objective language that is anchored in her personal experience. --Carole Walker, Executive Director, Rocky Mountain Insurance Information Association

Award-winning author and researcher Linda Masterson tackles a subject she knows all too well in *Surviving Wildfire: Get Prepared, Stay Alive, Rebuild Your Life*. Masterson's home burned to the ground in a Colorado wildfire in 2011, leaving her with little but her laptop and a fierce determination to get back on her feet and get on with her life. Masterson has always specialized in turning the complex into the comprehensible. In her job as director of Strategic Planning for Ketchum Communications she provided insight and direction to clients ranging from Procter & Gamble to Campbell Soup. As an award-winning author her work has appeared in *The New York Times Sunday Magazine*, *Log Homes Illustrated*, *Countryside*, *New Pioneer*, *Animal Kingdom* and many more. Her handbook, *Living With Bears: A Practical Guide to Bear Country*, has become the book of choice for bear professionals and homeowners alike. Linda is a partner in Phillips Group, a marketing and communications firm, and now lives in her new home north of Fort Collins with her husband Cory Phillips.

This book is very good. Half of the book is about protecting your home from wildfire. The other half is about homeowners insurance, evacuation, and what happens next if your home is destroyed or damaged. Good information about how to document what you own in case your home burns and you need to make an insurance claim. The book "The Fire Smart Home Handbook" has more information about how to protect your home from wildfire. Both books are worth reading.

Masterson is a great writer, this is the second of her books that I have read. She would have been my neighbor, had she stayed in Colorado. I have read the book, and will continue to use it as a reference as I prepare my family and my home for an emergency.

This book is an excellent resource for those living in WUI to prepare for the risk of wildfire.

Well written and I recommend it to my clients...

Great information and surprisingly interesting! Everyone should read this, even if they don't live in the woods. It's worth being prepared for any disaster.

As a survivor of the High Park fire - one of the largest fires in the history of Colorado - and a 30 year veteran on the local VFD, I was anxious to see this book because I have so many friends & neighbors struggling with these issues in the wake of the fire. I was not disappointed. My first copy arrived in the mail last week. Before the evening was out, I had read enough to decide to buy several more copies. One of those copies was for my dad who lives in the WUI west of Denver & is trying to educate his neighbors about being Firewise. The others were for friends who lost their homes in the High Park fire - all of them are in the midst of some version of the insurance nightmare. Since Linda lost her home in the Crystal fire - a year in advance of the High Park fire - she is much further down the learning curve and her book is very helpful to those of us who haven't figured it all out yet. This book covers the spectrum from how to improve your odds of your home surviving a wildfire to how to pick up the pieces if your home is destroyed. Linda does a great job of putting lots of information in a small book that is easy to read. I would recommend that anyone living in - or thinking about living in - the WUI should read this book (and give a copy to all your neighbors).

Upon the first few pages of reading Linda Masterson's book, *Surviving Wildfire*, I was struck by strong emotions left over from Colorado's 2012 High Park Fire. The opening pages filled me with a great sense of empathy, and a connection to Linda's story, as well as to others who have lost homes during wildfires. Linda's words also instilled me with recognition of the personal choice to live in the WUI, which comes with both great beauty and peace, as well as a great responsibility of living in a non-urban area. Linda's writing balances her personal story and resilience with accessible information and tasks for anyone who lives in wildfire-potential places, the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). Linda's thoughtful, well-researched, and thorough book offers readers the information they need to be prepared before, during, and after a wildfire. This book is very helpful for those who have been affected by wildfire in any way, whether full or partial property loss, a close-call, or living in an area with high fire potential. This book helps readers to be prepared and ready, which means a great deal during a fire emergency. Linda's book gives readers the knowledge to know what to do, bring, and save during an evacuation. She also walks readers through the difficult process of picking up the pieces after a total or partial loss, how to deal with insurance companies, and understanding the decision-making process of rebuilding or moving on. Linda's book offers preparedness, hope, and resiliency - and one reader says a huge thank you!

Surviving Wildfire is a must-read for people who are considering moving to the WUI and also those who are already living in their dream homes in the woods. This comprehensive book not only covers what you can do to reduce risk of losing your home to wildfire, but also how to recover if disaster strikes. The book is small but power packed. It gives vital information on how to determine fire risk on a property before you buy; how to reduce risk through building materials, landscaping, and site selection; how and why certain fires become catastrophic; and what to do if you lose your home to wildfire. Ms. Masterson walks you step by step through the insurance maze to ensure you have the best chance of getting what you paid for. I highly recommend this book to Homeowner Associations, Communities, Developers, and anyone else who lives or works in the WUI. Helen McGranahan  
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