

Survey Instrument: NWS Fire Weather Survey

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INTRODUCTION

This survey is being conducted on behalf of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Weather Service (NWS) to better understand your experience with wildfires and the information you need to prepare for future wildfires.

Your feedback is vital, and your responses will assist in improving tools and services that meet the needs of the public for preparing for and responding to wildfires.

This survey should only take 10-15 minutes of your time, depending on your responses and how much you would like to share about your experience(s). Thank you in advance for your time and participation.

1. GENERAL INFORMATION / SCREENERS

1.1 Are you at least 18 years of age?

Respondent must be at least 18 years old to continue with the survey.

1.2 In which state is your primary residence?

[IF ANSWER TO 1.2 INDICATES PRIMARY RESIDENCE IS NOT IN FIRE WEATHER REGION]

1.3 Do you have a second or additional home, vacation home, or regular condominium or apartment rental in a state outside of the state in which you currently live?

Yes

No

[IF ANSWER TO 1.3 INDICATES THEY HAVE A SECOND HOME]

1.4 In which state is your additional or regular vacation home, condominium, or apartment?

[IF ANSWER TO 1.4 IS NOT A FIRE WEATHER STATE]

1.5 Is there a state in which you frequently vacation that is outside of the state in which you live? (Please only include a state in which you have spent at least one week a year for 3 or more years)

Yes

No

[IF ANSWER TO 1.5 IS YES]

1.6 In which state do you frequently vacation? (Please only include states in which you have spent at least one week a year for 3 or more years.)

Respondent must live in or regularly stay/vacation in a fire weather region in order to continue with the survey.

2. EXPERIENCE WITH WILDFIRE EVENTS

These next questions are about any experiences you've had with major wildfire events. A wildfire is an unplanned and uncontrolled fire that started in an area of vegetation, such as grassland, brushland, or forests. Wildfires can then spread into developed areas and affect structures such as houses and businesses.

2.1 Have you experienced a wildfire where you live, work, or vacation within the past 10 years? (This can include in your immediate area or in a nearby city, town, or county if it affected you.)

Within 5 miles

6 miles or more

No, have not experienced a wildfire

Don't recall

[IF ANSWER TO 2.1 INDICATES THEY HAVE EXPERIENCED A WILDFIRE]

2.2 How many times have you experienced a wildfire in the past 10 years?

____ times

[STATEMENT SHOWN IF ANSWER TO 2.2 IS GREATER THAN 1]

*For the rest of these questions, we would like for you to think of the **most recent** wildfire you have experienced.*

[IF ANSWER TO 2.1 INDICATES THEY HAVE EXPERIENCED A WILDFIRE, ASK QUESTIONS 2.3 - 2.6]

2.3 How long ago was the **most recent** wildfire you experienced?

Less than a year ago

Within the past 1 to 2 years

3 to 5 years ago

5 to 10 years ago

Don't recall

2.4 In which state or territory was the **most recent** wildfire you experienced?

2.5 At what location did the **most recent** wildfire you experienced affect you? (Select all that apply.)

At my primary home

At work

As a place I was visiting or vacationing

Don't recall

2.6 As a result of the most recent wildfire you experienced, did you, personally, receive any damage to your home, work location, or vacation property?

Yes (Comment box to describe damage)

No

Next, we have some questions about evacuation orders that you may or may not have received within the past 10 years.

2.7 Within the past 10 years, have you received an evacuation order because of a wildfire?

Yes

No

Do not recall

[IF ANSWER TO 2.7 IS YES]

2.8 Did you evacuate as a result of the most recent evacuation order you received?

Yes

No

Prefer not to say

Do not recall

[IF ANSWER TO 2.8 IS NO]

2.9 You indicated that you did not evacuate in response to the most recent evacuation order you received within the past 10 years. Why didn't you evacuate? (select all that apply?)

I did not feel the wildfire was severe enough to evacuate

I did not want to leave my home

I did not have time to evacuate

I did not have transportation to evacuate

I did not have the financial means to evacuate

I did not feel I was physically able to evacuate (because of a disability or physical ailment)

The evacuation order was canceled

Other (please specify) _____

Prefer not to say

Do not recall

[IF ANSWER TO 2.7 IS YES, ASK QUESTIONS 2.10 - 2.12]

2.10 How long before the evacuation was scheduled were you given the most recent evacuation order?

A week before the scheduled evacuation

A day before the scheduled evacuation

Right before the scheduled evacuation

Do not recall

2.11 Do you feel that the timing of the most recent order to evacuate was...?

- Too early
- At the right time
- Too late
- Do not recall

2.12 From whom did you receive the most recent evacuation order? Select all that apply.

- A federal agency (such as the National Weather Service)
- A state agency (such as the Department of Transportation)
- Local fire department
- Local police or sheriff's department
- A local television station
- A local radio station
- A weather-related website (such as AccuWeather.com or WeatherUnderground.com)
- Local news website
- Other (please specify): _____
- Don't recall

[IF ANSWER TO 2.7 IS NO]

2.13 Even though you did not personally receive an evacuation order, have you heard about an order to evacuate nearby within the past 10 years because of a wildfire? If so, was it close enough to concern you?

- Yes, I heard of one that was close enough to concern me
- Yes, I heard of one, but it wasn't close enough to concern me
- No, I did not hear of one
- Don't recall

[IF ANSWER TO 2.13 IS "No" OR "Don't recall"]

2.14 Within the past 10 years, have you received any other evacuation-related information because of a wildfire (including information about the potential need to evacuate, evacuation routes, etc., but not including evacuation orders)?

- Yes
- No
- Do not recall

[IF ANSWER TO 2.13 OR 2.14 IS YES, ASK 2.15 - 2.16]

2.15 Did you take any of the following actions because of that [nearby evacuation order that you heard about/the evacuation-related information you received]? Select all that apply.

- I prepared to evacuate (for example, packed my belongings, packed my car, made plans for transportation)
- I arranged or started to arrange for temporary housing
- I evacuated
- I took other actions related to evacuating (please describe): _____
- I did not take action related to evacuating

Don't recall

2.16 From what source(s) did you receive [evacuation-related information/learn of a nearby evacuation order]? Select all that apply.

A federal agency (such as the National Weather Service)

A state agency (Such as the Department of Transportation)

Local fire department

Local police or sheriff's department

A local television station

A local radio station

A weather-related website (such as AccuWeather.com or WeatherUnderground.com)

Local news website

Other (please specify): _____

Don't recall

3. INFORMATION QUESTIONS - THOSE WHO EXPERIENCED A WILDFIRE

[THIS SECTION IS ONLY ASKED OF RESPONDENTS THAT INDICATED THEY HAVE EXPERIENCED A WILDFIRE IN QUESTION 2.1]

Next, we have some questions about information you may have received before, during, and/or after the most recent wildfire you experienced.

3.1 Did you receive any of the following types of information BEFORE, DURING, or AFTER the most recent wildfire you experienced? If so, please indicate when you received it. Select all that apply.

	More than 24 hours BEFORE the start of the wildfire	Within 24 hours of the start of the wildfire	At some point DURING the wildfire	After the fire had stopped	I did NOT receive this information at any time during the wildfire	I received this information, but I don't recall when
The probability or risk that the wildfire would affect your location						
Potential fire risks to homes, buildings, or structures						
What I needed to do to prepare for the wildfire						
How weather changes (such as wind direction or humidity) could impact the fire						
Potential risks to vegetation or natural areas, pets or wildlife, or human health						
How the wildfire compares to other fires that have occurred in the area						
A red flag						

warning						
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3.2 Thinking about the information you indicated that you received about the **most recent** wildfire you experienced, how do you feel about the timing of receiving that information?

[ASKED ONLY ABOUT THE INFORMATION THEY INDICATED RECEIVING IN 3.1]

	Too early	At the right time	Too late	Don't recall
The probability or risk that the wildfire would affect your location				
Potential fire risks to homes, buildings, or structures				
What I needed to do to prepare for the wildfire				
How weather changes (such as wind direction or humidity) could impact the fire				
Potential risks to vegetation or natural areas, pets or wildlife, or human health				
How the wildfire compares to other fires that have occurred in the area				
A red flag warning				

3.3 Now please rate how useful each piece of information that you received during the **most recent** wildfire you experienced was to any decisions you made in response to the fire (including decisions to evacuate, prepare to evacuate, take other action to prepare your home or outside area for wildfire, not take any steps to prepare, etc.).

[[ASKED ONLY ABOUT THE INFORMATION THEY INDICATED RECEIVING IN 3.1]]

	Extremely useful	Very useful	Somewhat useful	A little useful	Not at all useful	Don't recall
The probability or risk that the wildfire would affect your location						
Potential fire risks to homes, buildings, or structures						
What I needed to do to prepare for the wildfire						
How weather changes (such as wind direction or humidity) could impact the fire						
Potential risks to vegetation or natural areas, pets or wildlife, or human health						
How the wildfire compares to other fires that have occurred in the area						
A red flag warning						

3.4 Did you receive any other information before or during the wildfire that you found especially useful? If yes, please describe the information and why it was especially useful to you in terms of the decisions you made in response to the fire. If no, enter “no.”

3.5 Thinking about the types of information you received during the **most recent** wildfire you experienced, from what source(s) did this information come? Select all that apply.

- A federal agency (such as the National Weather Service)
- A state agency (such as the Department of Transportation)
- Local fire department
- Local police or sheriff's department
- A local television station
- A local radio station
- A weather related website (such as AccuWeather.com or WeatherUnderground.com)
- A local news website
- National news or media coverage (such as CNN)
- A broadcast meteorologist
- Social media
- Word of mouth, friends, neighbors, etc.
- Other (please specify): _____
- Don't recall

3.6 Thinking about the types of information you received during the **most recent** wildfire you experienced, how did you receive this information? Select all that apply.

- Personal visit to house
- A phone call
- A text message
- An alert or emergency notification that automatically came across smartphone
- An email
- A radio notification or broadcast
- A television notification or broadcast
- A weather-related website
- A weather-related smartphone app (such as Weather Bug, The Weather Channel)
- A radio or television news phone app
- Social media posts
- Information personally sought online
- Other (please specify): _____
- Don't recall

3.7 Again thinking about the information you received about the **most recent** wildfire you experienced, which single mode of sharing information do you think was the most effective for you, personally? Please select only one.

[LIST WILL SHOW ONLY THOSE SELECTED IN QUESTION 3.6]

- Personal visit to house
- A phone call
- A text message
- An alert or emergency notification that automatically came across smartphone
- An email
- A radio notification or broadcast
- A television notification or broadcast
- A weather-related website

A weather-related smartphone app (such as Weather Bug, The Weather Channel)

A radio or television news phone app

Social media posts

Information personally sought online

Other (please specify): _____

No mode of sharing information as effective for me

Don't recall

4. INFORMATION QUESTIONS - THOSE WHO DID NOT EXPERIENCE A WILDFIRE, BUT GOT/HEARD EVACUATION INFORMATION

[THIS SECTION IS ONLY ASKED OF RESPONDENTS THAT DID NOT EXPERIENCE A WILDFIRE (ANSWER TO 2.1 IS NO), BUT DID GET AT LEAST SOME INFORMATION (ANSWER TO 2.7, 2.13, OR 2.14 IS YES)]

4.1 Did you see or hear about any of the following topics regarding wildfires within the **past 10 years**? Select all that apply.

- The probability or risk that the wildfire would affect your location
- Potential** fire risks to homes, buildings, or structures
- What I needed to do to prepare for the wildfire
- How weather changes (such as wind direction or humidity) could impact the fire
- Potential** risks to vegetation or natural areas, pets or wildlife, or human health
- How the wildfire compares to other fires that have occurred in the area
- A red flag warning
- None of these
- Don't recall

[IF ANSWER TO 4.1 IS NOT "NONE OF THESE" OR "DON'T RECALL", ASK 4.2 FOR ONLY TOPICS THEY INDICATED IN 4.1]

4.2 Please rate how useful the information was to you in terms of understanding your personal risk related to the wildfire or making decisions to prepare or respond to the wildfire (including decisions to evacuate, prepare to evacuate, take other action to prepare your home or outside area for wildfire, etc.) (The information you heard or saw about wildfires.)

	Extremely useful	Very useful	Somewhat useful	A little useful	Not at all useful	Don't recall
The probability or risk that the wildfire would affect your location						
Potential fire risks to homes, buildings, or structures						
What I needed to do to prepare for the wildfire						
How weather changes (such as wind direction or humidity) could impact the fire						
Potential risks to vegetation or natural areas, pets or wildlife, or human health						
How the wildfire compares to other fires that have						

occurred in the area						
A red flag warning						

5. INFORMATION QUESTIONS - FOR THOSE WHO DID NOT EXPERIENCE A WILDFIRE OR RECEIVE ANY EVACUATION INFORMATION

[THIS SECTION IS ONLY ASKED OF RESPONDENTS THAT ANSWERED NO TO 2.1, 2.7, 2.13, AND 2.14]

5.1 Although you have not experienced a wildfire, have you seen or heard anything about any of the following topics regarding wildfires in the **past 10 years**? Please select all of the topics that you have seen/heard about.

The probability or risk that the wildfire would affect your location

Potential fire risks to homes, buildings, or structures

What I needed to do to prepare for the wildfire

How weather changes (such as wind direction or humidity) could impact the fire

Potential risks to vegetation or natural areas, pets or wildlife, or human health

How the wildfire compares to other fires that have occurred in the area

A red flag warning

None of these

Don't recall

[IF ANSWER TO 5.1 IS NOT "NONE OF THESE" OR "DON'T RECALL", ASK 5.2 FOR ONLY TOPICS INDICATED IN 5.1]

5.2 Please rate how useful the information was to you in terms of understanding your personal risk related to the wildfire or making decisions to prepare or respond to the wildfire. (The information you heard or saw about wildfires.)

[ASKED ONLY ABOUT THE INFORMATION THEY SAW/HEARD]

	Extremely useful	Very useful	Somewhat useful	Slightly useful	Not at all useful	Don't recall
The probability or risk that the wildfire would affect your location						
Potential fire risks to homes, buildings, or structures						
What I needed to do to prepare for the wildfire						
How weather changes (such as wind direction or humidity) could impact the fire						
Potential risks to vegetation or natural areas, pets or wildlife, or						

human health						
How the wildfire compares to other fires that have occurred in the area						
A red flag warning						

6. ACTIONS TAKEN BECAUSE OF WILDFIRES

[IF ANSWER TO 2.1 INDICATES THEY HAVE EXPERIENCED A WILDFIRE, ASK 6.1]

Earlier we asked about actions you did or did not take related to evacuation. Next, we would like to know about any actions you took in response to the most recent wildfire you experienced, other than evacuation-related actions.

6.1 Which, if any, of the following actions did you take to prepare for the most recent wildfire you experienced? Select all that apply.

- I did not take any action
- Checked my yard for flammable materials / brought in flammable materials from outside
- Stocked water for drinking
- Stocked water for other uses during a possible wildfire emergency
- Prepared fire extinguisher(s)
- Stocked food
- Secured pets
- Secured keepsakes, valuables, or other perishables
- Reported wildfire activity near me
- Other (please specify any additional action you took to prepare): _____
- Don't recall

[IF ANSWER TO 6.1 IS NOT "I DID NOT TAKE ANY ACTION" OR "DON'T RECALL", ASK 6.2]

6.2 How far in advance of the most recent wildfire you experienced did you begin preparing?

- Longer than a week before
- A week before
- A day before
- Right before the fire started
- Did not prepare until the fire was occurring
- Don't recall

[IF ANSWER TO 2.1 IS NO, BUT ANSWER TO 2.7, 2.13, OR 2.14 IS YES, ASK 6.3]

6.3 Next, we would like to know about any actions you took based on the information you saw or heard about wildfires. Based on the information about wildfires that you saw or heard in the past 10 years (from the previous questions), did you do any of the following actions to prepare for the possibility of a wildfire? Select all that apply.

I did not take any action

Checked my yard for flammable materials / brought in flammable materials from outside

Stocked water for drinking

Stocked water for other uses during a possible wildfire emergency

Prepared fire extinguisher(s)

Stocked food

Secured pets

Secured keepsakes, valuables, or other perishables

Reported wildfire activity near me

Other (please specify any additional action you took to prepare): _____

Don't recall

7. WILDFIRE PERCEPTIONS AND PREPAREDNESS

Next, we have some questions about your perceptions of wildfires impacting your area. By area, we mean the area in [state] where you [primarily live/have an additional home, vacation home, or regular condominium or apartment/where you frequently vacation.]

(Please think about your immediate area, as well as nearby cities, towns, or counties if you think wildfires in those areas would or could affect you.)

7.1 How unconcerned or concerned are you about future wildfires occurring in your area?

- Very unconcerned
- Slightly unconcerned
- Neither concerned nor unconcerned
- Slightly concerned
- Very concerned
- Don't know

7.2 If a wildfire occurred in your area, how likely are you to be **personally** impacted?

- Very unlikely
- Slightly unlikely
- Neither likely nor unlikely
- Slightly likely
- Very likely
- Don't know

7.3 How unprepared or prepared do you **personally** think you are to deal with wildfires that may occur in your area?

- Very unprepared
- Slightly unprepared
- Neither prepared nor unprepared
- Slightly prepared
- Very prepared
- Don't know

7.4 How unprepared or prepared do you think **your city, town, or county** is to deal with wildfires that may occur?

- Very unprepared
- Slightly unprepared
- Neither prepared nor unprepared
- Slightly prepared
- Very prepared
- Don't know

For the next few questions, we would like for you to think about how you would feel if a severe wildfire occurred in your area in the very near future.

7.5 In the event of a severe wildfire in your area, please rate how concerned you would be about the following. **[These will be in random order.]**

	Extremely concerned	Very concerned	Moderately concerned	Slightly concerned	Not at all concerned	Don't recall
Structural damage to your home						
Structural damage to nearby buildings or businesses						
Damage to human health or life						

8. PREFERRED SOURCES OF INFORMATION

*Next, we have a few questions about wildfire-related information you might receive **in the future**. We would like to better understand your opinions about different sources of information and best practices for providing you with information.*

[QUESTION 8.1 IS ONLY ASKED OF RESPONDENTS THAT ANSWERED NO TO 2.1.]

8.1 How would you prefer to receive information about wildfires? (Select all that apply.)

Personal visit to home

A phone call

A text message

An alert or emergency notification that automatically came across smartphone

An email

A radio notification or broadcast

A television notification or broadcast

A weather-related website

A weather-related smartphone app (such as Weather Bug, The Weather Channel)

A radio or television news phone app

A personal visit from a local authority

Social media posts

Don't know

Don't want to receive any information

8.2 Please rate your level of agreement with the following statement:

There is adequate information available to me that can help me prepare for wildfires.

Strongly agree

Somewhat agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Somewhat disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know

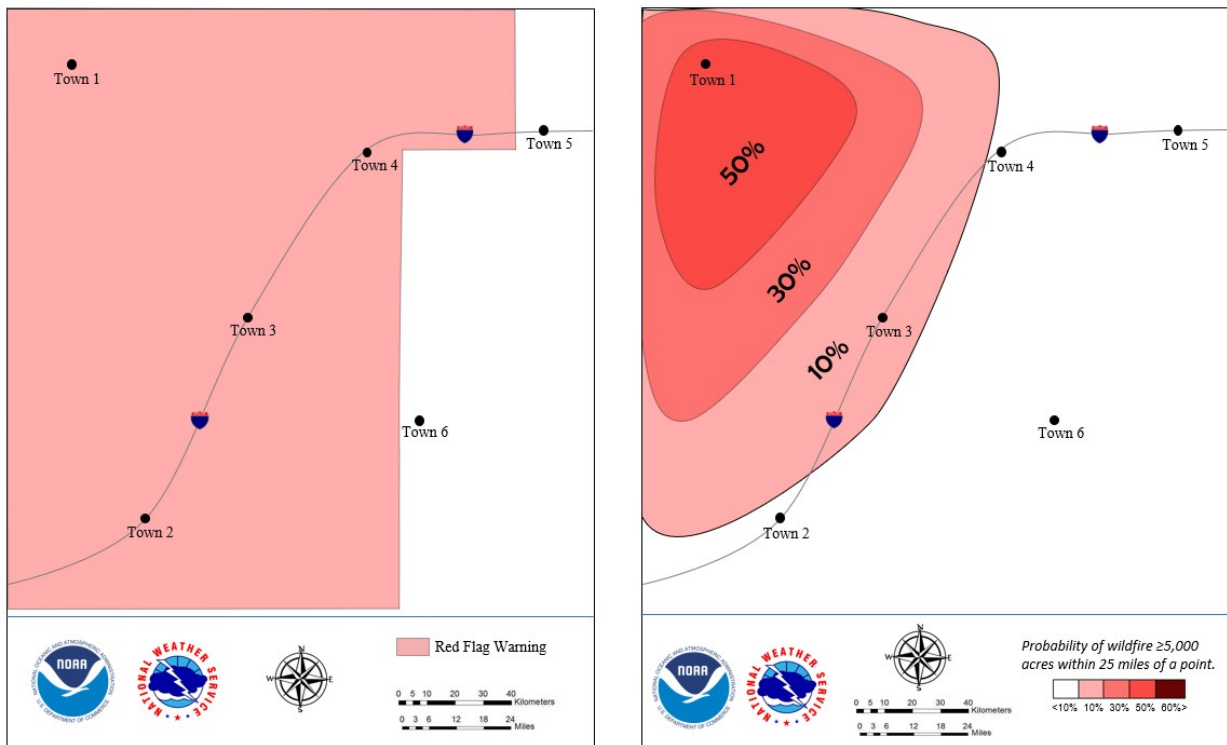
8.3 Is there any information you feel would help you better prepare for potential wildfires that is not currently available to you? If yes, can you please describe? If no, please enter "no."

9. PROBABILISTIC INFORMATION

Thank you for your input thus far. We are almost finished. We have just a few questions about how you would react to information presented during fire weather forecasts.

For the following questions, please imagine that you live in Town 3.

[A RANDOM HALF OF THE RESPONDENTS WILL SEE THE RED FLAG WARNING AND THE OTHER HALF THE PROBABILISTIC INFORMATION. THEY WILL ALL BE ASKED THE BELOW SERIES OF QUESTIONS.]



[HALF OF RESPONDENTS WILL BE ASKED 9.1 - 9.7 ABOUT THE RED FLAG WARNING ON THE RIGHT. HALF OF RESPONDENTS WILL BE ASKED 9.1 - 9.7 ABOUT THE PROBABILISTIC IMAGE ON THE LEFT.]

9.1 If you lived in Town 3, and saw this image on your cell phone, television, online, etc., how likely do you feel that wildfire could impact your home?

- Extremely likely
- Very likely
- Moderately likely
- Slightly likely
- Not at all likely
- Don' know

9.2 If you lived in Town 3, and saw this image on your cell phone, television, online, etc., how likely would you be to evacuate?

- Extremely likely
- Very likely
- Moderately likely
- Slightly likely
- Not at all likely
- Don' know

9.3 If you lived in Town 3, and saw this image on your cell phone, television, online, etc., how likely are you to take protective action (by protective action, we mean any action to protect yourself or your property from a possible wildfire)?

- Extremely likely
- Very likely
- Moderately likely
- Slightly likely
- Not at all likely
- Don' know

9.4 If you lived in Town 3, and saw this image on your cell phone, television, online, etc., how likely are you to cancel or delay ANY plans (parties or gatherings, field work, moving trailers, attending events, etc.)

- Extremely likely
- Very likely
- Moderately likely
- Slightly likely
- Not at all likely
- Don' know

[IF ANSWER TO 9.3 IS EXTREMELY LIKELY, VERY LIKELY, MODERATELY LIKELY, OR SLIGHTLY LIKELY]

9.5 You indicated that you would be likely to take protective action if you lived in Town 3 and saw this image on your cell phone, television, online, etc. Specifically, what action(s) would you take? (Check all that apply)

- Check my yard for flammable materials / bring in flammable materials from outside
- Stock water for drinking
- Stock water for other uses (bathing, extinguishing fires, etc.)
- Prepare fire extinguisher(s)
- Stock food
- Secure pets
- Secure keepsakes, valuables, or other perishables
- Prepare for evacuation (pack belongings, secure transportation, pack car, etc.)
- Arrange or start to arrange for temporary housing
- Search for more information

Other (please specify) _____
Don't know

[IF ANSWER TO 9.5 IS NOT "DON'T KNOW"]

9.6 Specifically, what about the information presented would encourage you to take this action if you lived in Town 3? _____

[IF ANSWER TO 9.3 IS "NOT AT ALL LIKELY"]

9.7 Why would you not take protective action if you received this information and lived in Town 3? (Again, protective action means any action to protect yourself or your property from a possible wildfire) _____

10. DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Thank you. Please answer these few final questions about yourself.

10.1 What is your ZIP Code?

10.2 What is your age?

_____ years old

10.3 What is the highest level of education you have completed?

Some high school, but did not graduate

High school graduate or equivalent

Some college or trade school, but did not graduate

Associate's degree or trade school degree

Bachelor's degree

Master's degree

Professional or doctorate degree (such as M.D. or Ph.D.)

Prefer not to answer

10.4 What is your race and/or ethnicity? Select all that apply.

American Indian or Alaska Native (For example, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation of Montana, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government, Nome Eskimo Community, Aztec, Maya, etc.)

Asian (For example, Chinese, Asian Indian, Filipino, Vietnamese, Korean, Japanese, etc.)

Black or African American (For example, African American, Jamaican, Haitian, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Somali, etc.)

Hispanic or Latino (For example, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Salvadoran, Cuban, Dominican, Guatemalan, etc.)

Middle Eastern or North African (For example, Lebanese, Iranian, Egyptian, Syrian, Iraqi, Israeli, etc.)

Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (For example, Native Hawaiian, Samoan, Chamorro, Tongan, Fijian, Marshallese, etc.)

White (For example, English, German, Irish, Italian, Polish, Scottish, etc.)

Other (Please specify): _____

Don't know

Prefer not to answer

10.5 How would you describe your place of residence?

Large city or urban area

Suburbs near a large city

Small city or town

Rural area

Do not know
Prefer not to answer

10.6 In which language do you prefer to receive your weather information?

English
Spanish
Chinese Mandarin
Chinese Cantonese
Tagalog
Vietnamese
Arabic
French
Other (please specify) _____
Not sure

10.7 How long have you lived in the current state you live in? (If a fraction of a year, please round up to the nearest whole number.)

____ years

10.8 Which do you consider yourself?

Female
Male
Transgender, non-binary, or another gender
Prefer not to answer

10.9 Which of these categories best describes your total household income before taxes last year?

Under \$20,000
\$20,001-\$40,000
\$40,001-\$60,000
\$60,001-\$80,000
\$80,001-\$100,000
More than \$100,000
Don't know
I prefer not to answer

Thank you! That's all the questions we have for you. On behalf of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Weather Service, thank you so much for your time.