



# Emergency Preparedness

**Start Date :** Jun 21, 2023

**Responses :** 51

Community members were asked to share their thoughts on "Emergency Preparedness".

## REPORT SUMMARY

**51 participants completed this questionnaire, demographics of respondents can be found at the end of the report. NOTE: This was a small sample size, results and recommendations are not conclusive and should be further explored/validated.**

The majority of respondents described themselves as not being prepared for evacuation in the event of an emergency, and not something thought about until participating in this activity on the Speak Up Scottsdale community. Participants that felt they were somewhat prepared have thought about what they would do, but haven't put together a go-bag or solidified a plan. Once learning about emergency preparedness most respondents were interested in learning more and finding ways they can prepare themselves with the mindset "...it's better to be prepared than not..."

For some participants emergency evacuation was not something that concerned them as they didn't feel they would be affected by an emergency evacuation in their area.

Only a small group of participants described themselves as being adequately prepared and have set up go-bags, have evacuation routes planned and have informed family members of plans.

Learning about preparing for an emergency was motivation for many to start thinking about pulling together a plan and preparing a go-bag. Some thoughts on raising awareness among Scottsdale residents include:

- Elevate the significance of preparation and making a plan - How can this help people manage emergencies?
- Consider putting things in context or make it more relatable - Should we be thinking about emergency preparedness regardless of location? If so, why?
- Make information and resources during peak seasons easy to find on the website - Could it be included on the Scottsdale landing page during peak seasons to bring attention to those who may not be thinking about it?
- Are there opportunities to have emergency preparedness city resources come up in general online search results related to "monsoons" or "wildfires"?

Overall, participants were very receptive to learning about emergency preparedness and bringing awareness to it was well received.

### Q#1 (51 respondents)

Respondents were asked, "If you were faced with an immediate home evacuation due to a wildfire, how prepared do you believe you are for that?"

51.0% of respondents indicated *Not prepared at all*, while 43.1% of respondents indicated *Somewhat prepared*, and 5.9% of respondents indicated *Over prepared*.

### Q#2 (51 respondents)

Respondents were asked, "What makes you feel you are prepared at that level?"

#### Not prepared at all (Not considered it before this)

- Haven't thought about it until now / Wouldn't know where to begin (35.3%)
- Not considered as a threat (15.7%)

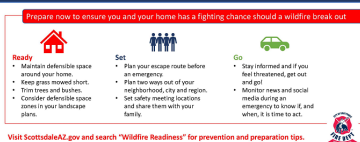
#### Somewhat prepared (They have thought about it, done some general planning)

- Thought about mentally planned (25.5%)
- Have a go-kit prepared (15.7%)
- Have emergency routes planned (3.9%)

#### Over prepared (Have a full plan in place)

- Planned, packed, informed family (7.8%)

## Wildfire Readiness: Ready, Set, Go!



### Q#3 (51 respondents)

Respondents were asked, "Did you know there is a Ready, Set, Go! plan to help you prepare if you are faced with an emergency evacuation?"

52.9% of respondents indicated Yes, while 47.1% of respondents indicated No.

### Q#4 (51 respondents)

Respondents were asked, "If you have to Go and evacuate your home, do you know not to return home until officials declare it is safe?"

98.0% of respondents indicated Yes, while 2.0% of respondents indicated No.

### Q#5 (51 respondents)

Respondents were asked, "Do you have an emergency Go-kit set up for quick evacuation in the event of an emergency?"

80.4% of respondents indicated No, while 19.6% of respondents indicated Yes.

### Q#6 (10 respondents)

The applicable subset of respondents were asked, "What items are in your Go-kit?"

#### Go-kit Contents

- Water (80.0%)
- Food (60.0%)
- Clothes (60.0%)
- Medications (40.0%)
- Tools (30.0%)
- First Aide (30.0%)
- Firearms & Ammo (20.0%)
- Toiletries (20.0%)
- Papers / ID's (20.0%)
- Cash (10.0%)
- Unsure (10.0%)
- Flash Light (10.0%)

### Q#7 (51 respondents)

Respondents were asked, "Do you have at least two evacuation routes out of your neighborhood planned in the event of an emergency?"

66.7% of respondents indicated Yes, while 33.3% of respondents indicated No.

### Q#8 (51 respondents)

Respondents were asked, "Is your mobile phone set up to receive Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)?"

47.1% of respondents indicated *Maybe, not sure if I have this set up*, while 43.1% of respondents indicated *Yes, I have set this up*, and 9.8% of respondents indicated *No, I have turned this feature off*.

### Q#9 (51 respondents)

Respondents were asked, "Having just thought about preparing for an emergency evacuation, how likely are you to take steps to learn more, prepare and set up a plan?"

76.5% of respondents indicated *Very likely* or *Somewhat likely*, while 23.5% indicated *Maybe* or *Not at all likely*.

**Q#10 (51 respondents)**

Respondents were asked, "Can you please explain why you feel that way about taking the steps to plan and prepare?"

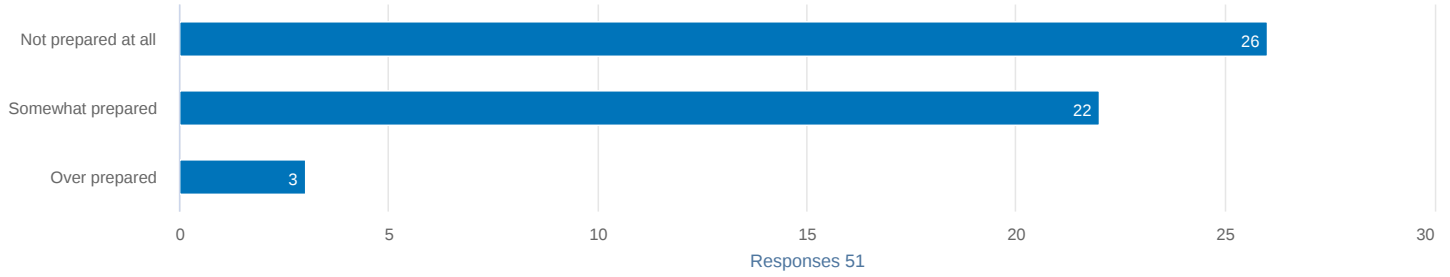
**Likely to plan**

- Better to be prepared than not / Been made aware of risks (49.0%)
- Interest in making go-kit (11.8%)
- Interest in planning evacuation routes (7.8%)

**Unlikely to plan**

- The risk seems low (17.6%)
- Not a priority (9.8%)
- Already prepared (3.9%)

If you were faced with an immediate home evacuation due to a wildfire, how prepared do you believe you are for that?

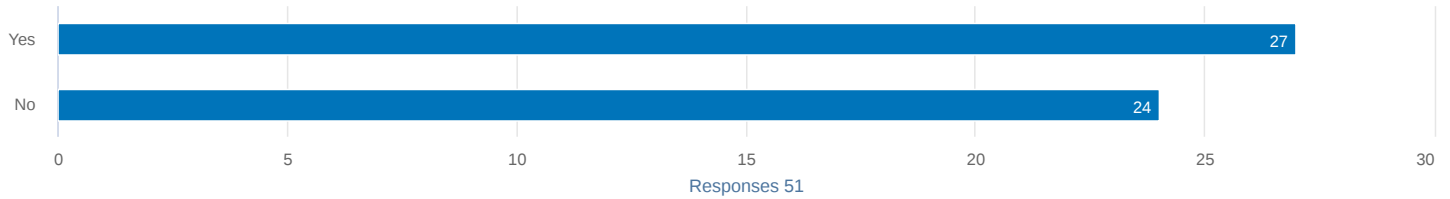


What makes you feel you are prepared at that level?

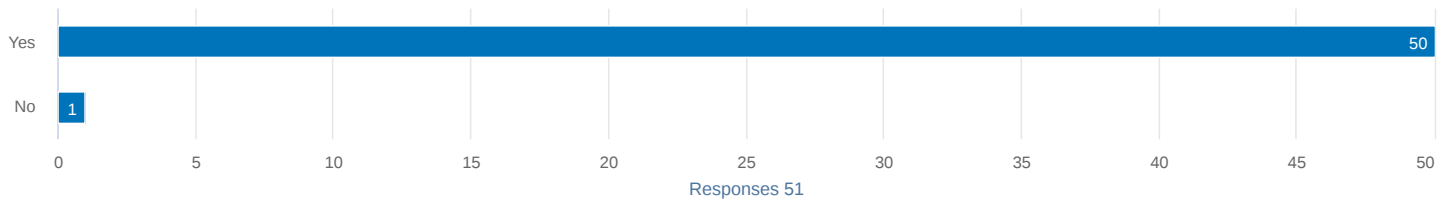
| Bucket  | Count |
|---|-------|
| Haven't thought about it until now + Wouldn't know where to begin | 18    |
| Thought about + mentally planned                                  | 13    |
| Have a go-kit prepared  | 8     |
| Not considered as a threat  | 8     |
| Planned, packed, informed family                                  | 4     |
| Have emergency routes planned                                     | 2     |
| Digitized files + Photos  | 1     |

Total 51

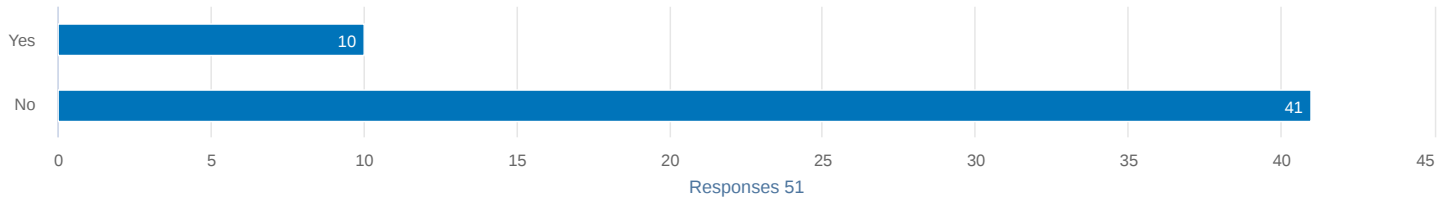
Did you know there is a Ready, Set, Go! plan to help you prepare if you are faced with an emergency evacuation?



If you have to Go and evacuate your home, do you know not to return home until officials declare it is safe?



Do you have an emergency Go-kit set up for quick evacuation in the event of an emergency?

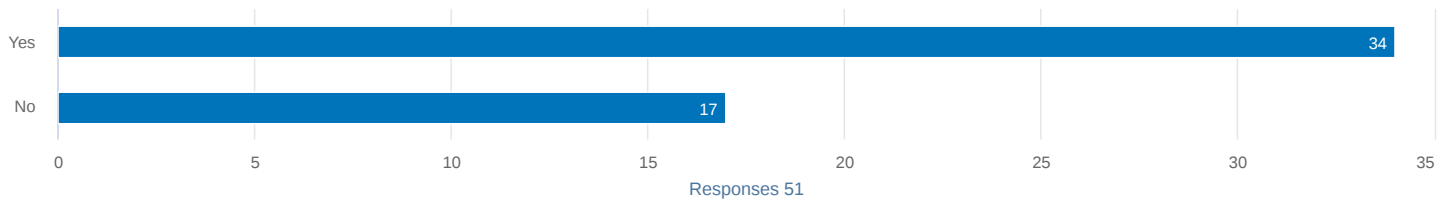


What items are in your Go-kit?

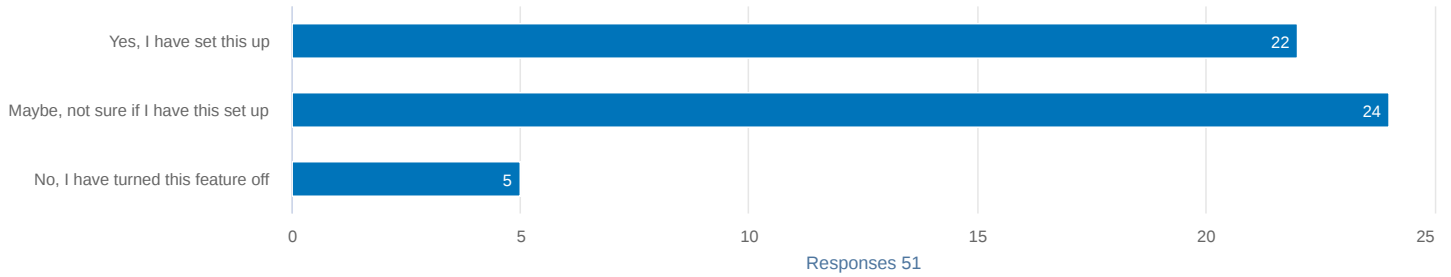
| Bucket         | Count |
|----------------|-------|
| Water          | 8     |
| Food           | 6     |
| Clothes        | 6     |
| Medications    | 4     |
| Tools          | 3     |
| First Aide     | 3     |
| Firearms + Amo | 2     |
| Toiletries     | 2     |
| Papers / ID's  | 2     |
| Cash           | 1     |
| Unsure         | 1     |
| Flash Light    | 1     |

Total 10

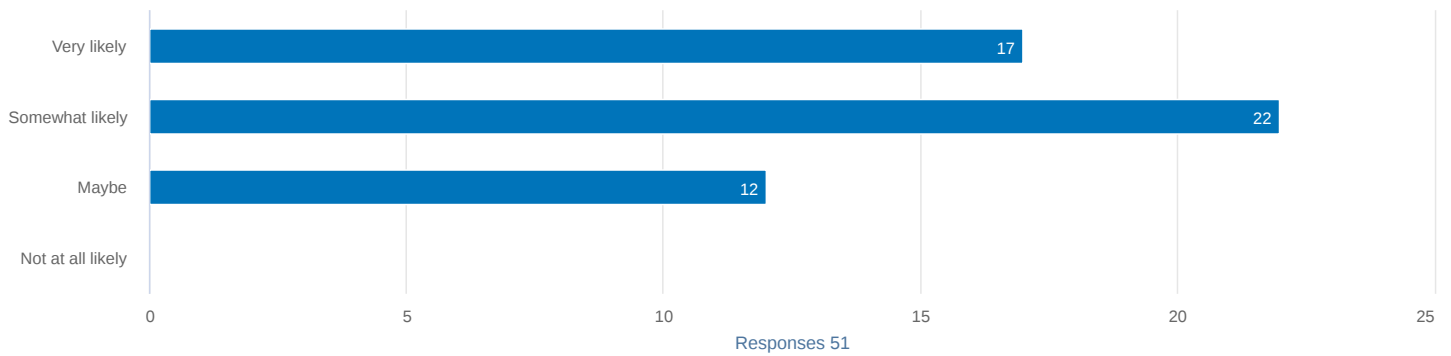
Do you have at least two evacuation routes out of your neighborhood planned in the event of an emergency?



Is your mobile phone set up to receive Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)?



Having just thought about preparing for an emergency evacuation, how likely are you to take steps to learn more, prepare and set up a plan?



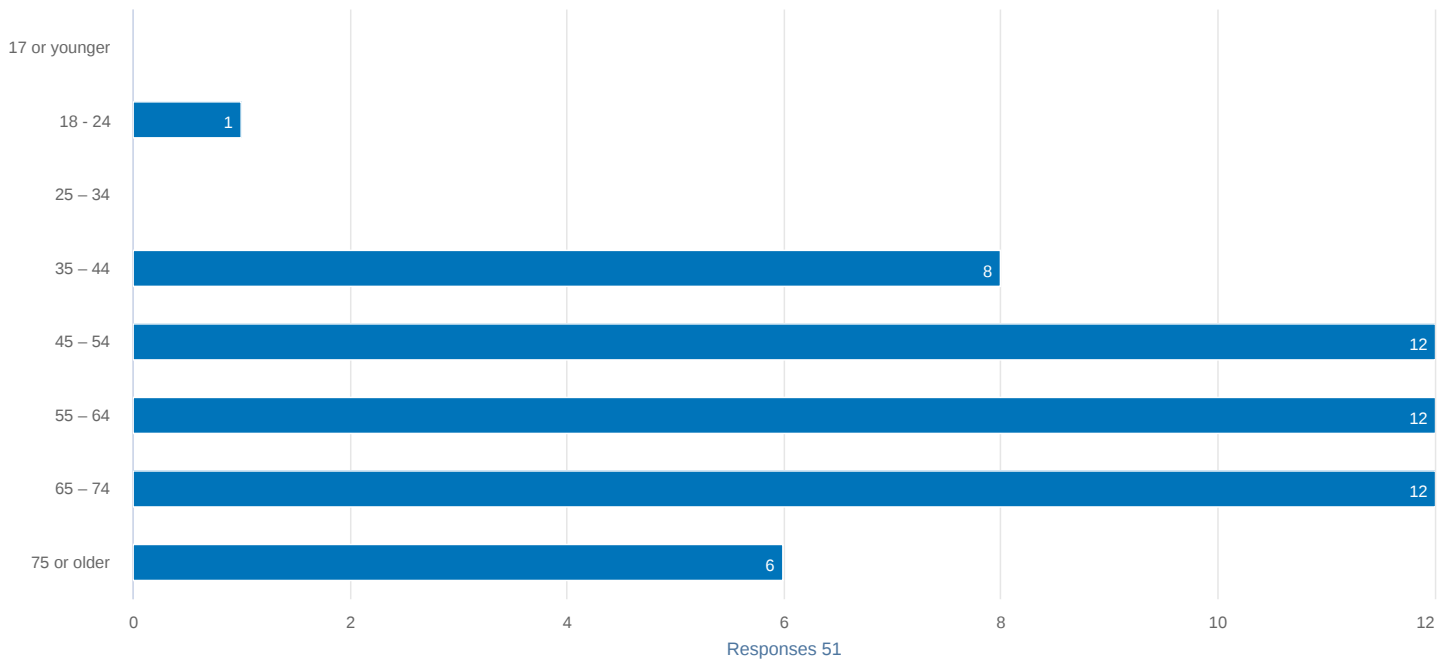
Can you please explain why you feel that way about taking the steps to plan and prepare?

| Bucket  | Count |
|---|-------|
| Better to be prepared than not + Been made aware of risks | 25    |
| The risk seems low  | 9     |
| Interest in making go-kit                                 | 6     |
| Not a priority  | 5     |
| Interest in planning evacuation routes                    | 4     |
| Already prepared  | 2     |
| Look into how to get alerted                              | 1     |

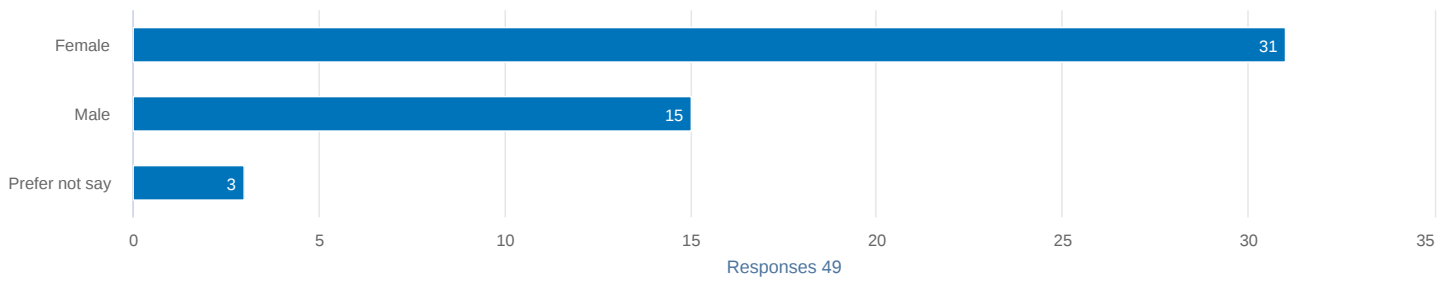
Total 51

### Demographic Appendix

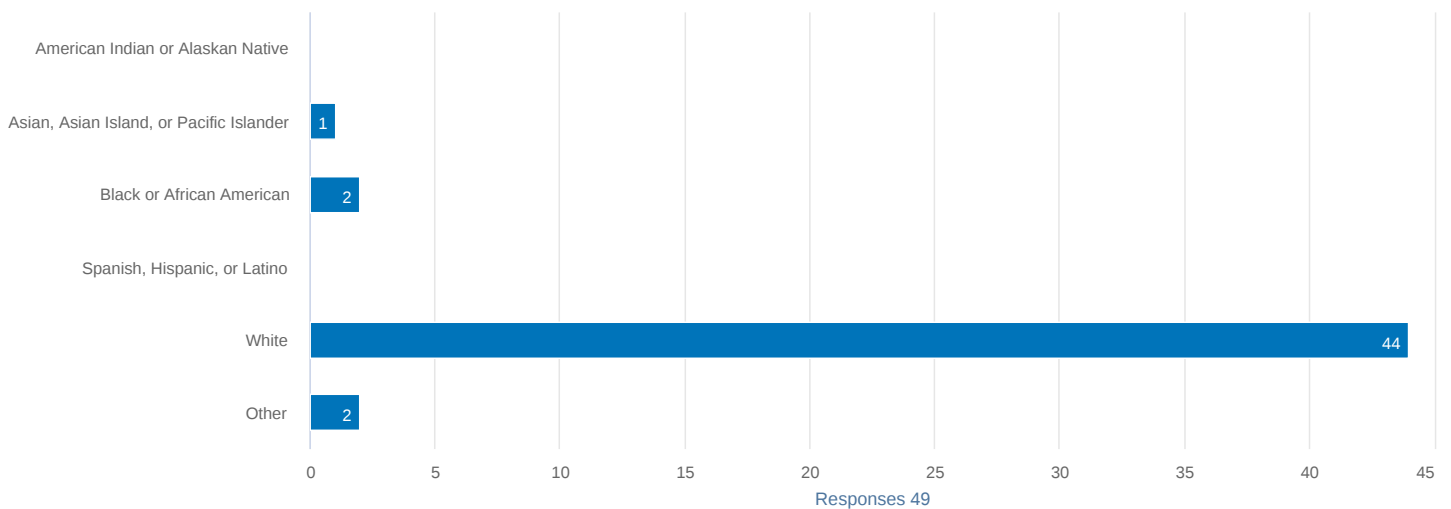
#### Age



#### Gender



#### Race/Ethnicity





# Flooding Evacuation Discussion

Start Date : Jul 6, 2023

Unique Participants :22

Total Responses :24

Community members were asked to discuss their thoughts on "Monsoon Flooding".

## DISCUSSION QUESTION ASKED

Not all emergencies require evacuation, but when they do it is important that you are prepared and move quickly. Emergencies that may involve evacuation in Scottsdale include monsoon flooding.

- Arizona Emergency Information Network <https://ein.az.gov/>
- Emergency Preparation Resources <https://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/emergency>
- Flood Preparedness <https://www.ready.gov/floods>

While most that live in Arizona look forward to the monsoon season to break the heat, we still need to be cautious and prepared if we are unexpectedly caught in a dust storm or flood. We're looking to understand what people may or may not know about preparing for and managing emergency flooding, so we can create the right education materials and resources. We will also respond to any questions you might have for us!

### Please let us know your thoughts on the following...

1. Do you have an emergency plan in place if you needed to unexpectedly evacuate your home for flooding?
2. If driving and caught in a flashflood, are you aware of the dangers and do you know what you should do?

## REPORT SUMMARY

**22 participants responded to the open discussion prompt on monsoon flooding. This discussion was posted 1 week after the EP questionnaire where EP resources were provided. Below are the common themes that emerged from responses, respondent demographics are included at the end of the report.**

**NOTE: This was a small sample size, results and recommendations are not conclusive and should be further explored/validated.**

Overall, 41% of participants were unprepared or somewhat prepared with dealing with an unexpected flood evacuation, where 36% of participants had a plan in place for managing a flash flood. Only 14% didn't see flood evacuation as a threat in their area.

Getting washed away or stranded, and to not enter flooded or flood prone areas during a storm were the perceived dangers of being caught in a flashflood while driving. While most were aware of how to avoid getting caught in a flash flood, not many knew what to do if they were caught in a flashflood.

### Emergencies Flood Evacuation Planning Feedback:

- Have a plan in place for flood evacuation (8)
- Unprepared for dealing with a flood / No plan (7)
- Not seen as an immediate threat in their area (3)
- Motivated to learn about what to do (3)
- Somewhat prepared for dealing with a flood (2)

### Perceived Risks of Flashfloods:

- Don't drive in water / Get washed away (8)
- Avoid washes / Flood prone areas during rain (5)
- Don't drive in storms (3)
- Unsure of flashflood / Dust storm dangers (3)

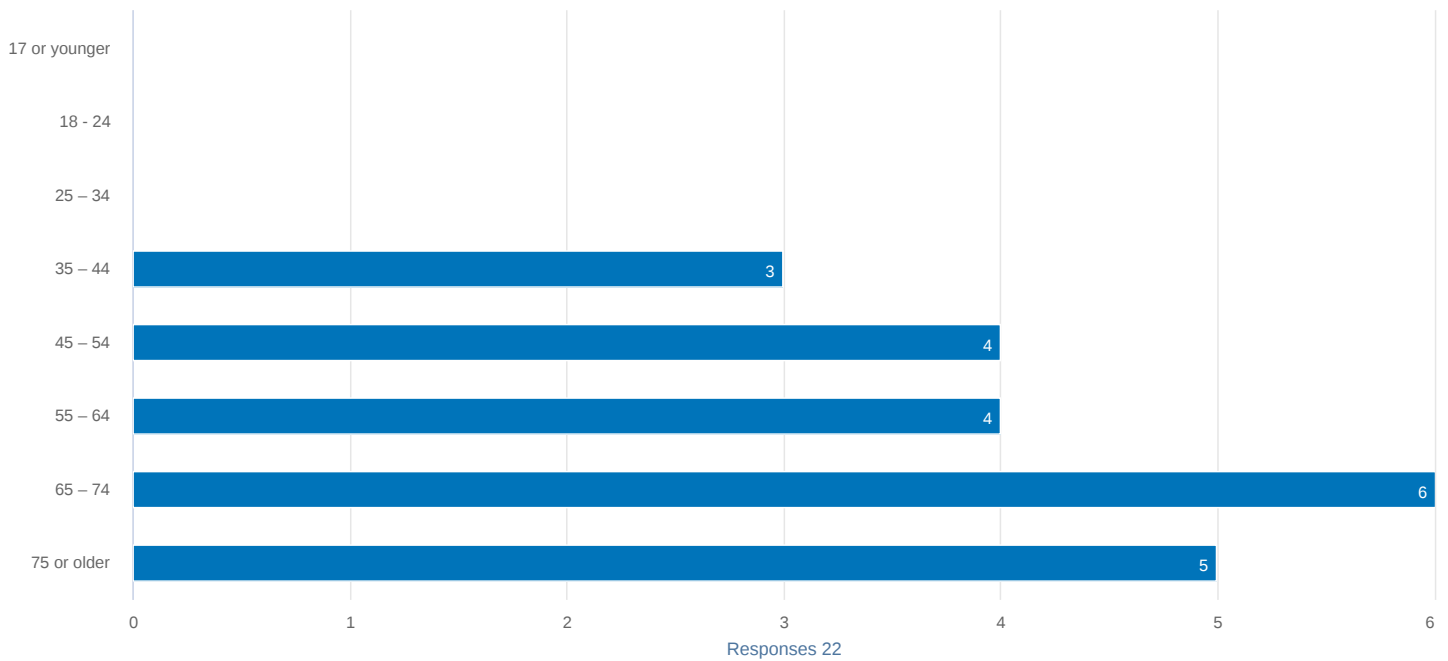


| Bucket  | Count |
|---|-------|
| Have a plan in place for flood evacuation     | 36.4% |
| Somewhat prepared for dealing with a flood    | 9.1%  |
| Unprepared for dealing with a flood / No plan | 31.8% |
| Motivated to learn about what to do           | 13.6% |
| Don't drive in water / Get washed away        | 36.4% |
| Avoid washes / Flood prone areas during rain  | 22.7% |
| Unsure of flashflood / Dust storm dangers     | 13.6% |
| Don't drive in storms                         | 13.6% |
| Not seen as an immediate threat in their area | 13.6% |

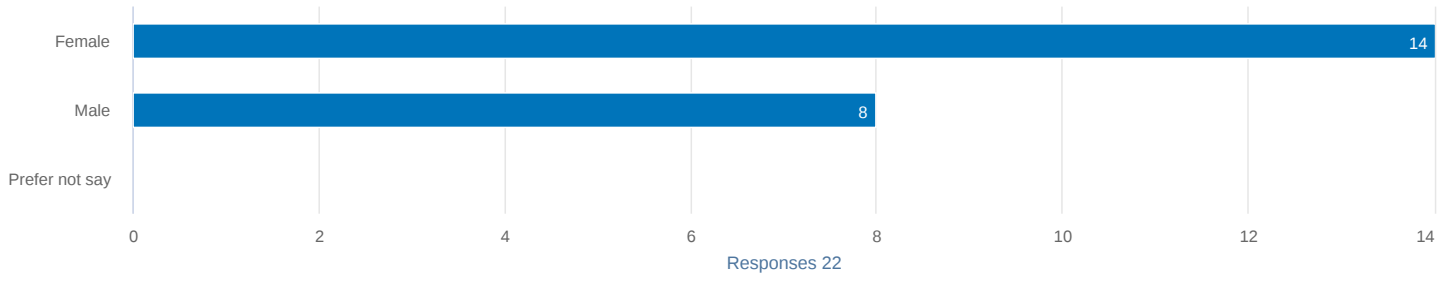
Participants 22

Demographic Appendix

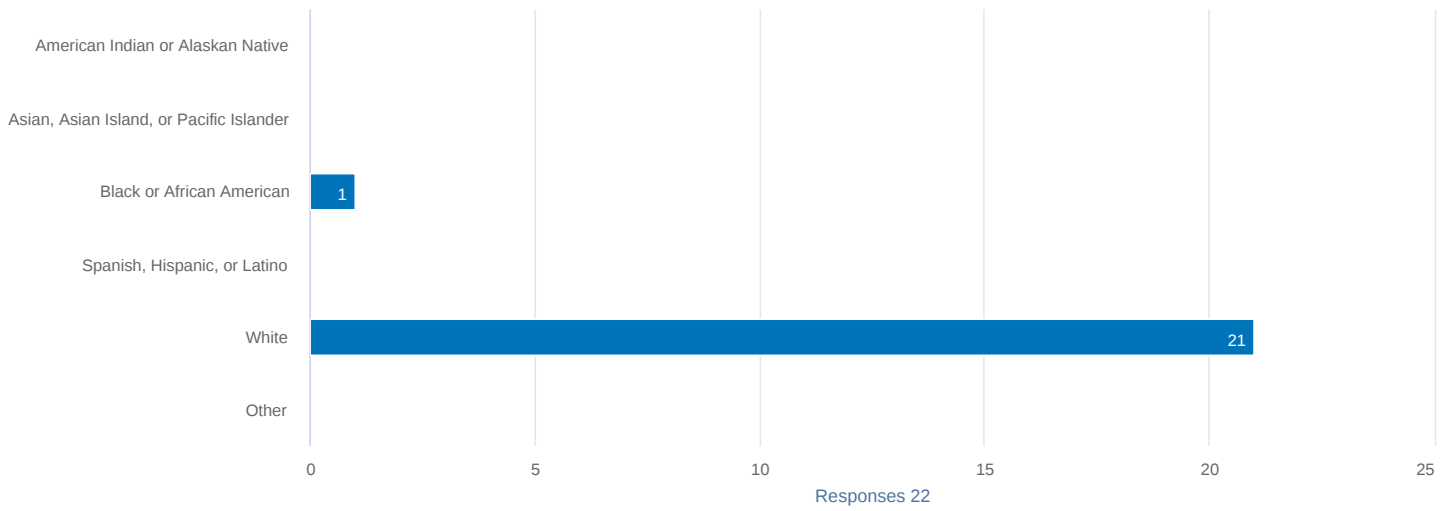
Age

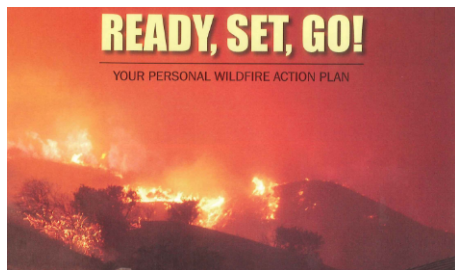


Gender



Race/Ethnicity





# Wildfire Discussion

**Start Date** : Jul 6, 2023  
**Unique Participants** :23  
**Total Responses** :23

Community members were asked to discuss their thoughts on "Wildfire Discussion".

## DISCUSSION QUESTION ASKED

Not all emergencies require evacuation, but when they do it is important that you are prepared and move quickly. Emergencies that may involve evacuation in Scottsdale include wildfires.

- Arizona Emergency Information Network <https://ein.az.gov/>
- Emergency Preparation Resources <https://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/emergency>
- Wildland Fire Prevention <https://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/fire/wild-fire-prevention>
- Scottsdale Ready, Set, Go Wildfire Action Plan <https://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/Assets/ScottsdaleAZ/Fire/Ready-Set-Go.pdf>

Thinking about preparing for a wildfire probably prompts many different questions, thoughts, and emotions. We're looking to understand what people may or may not know about prevention and preparing for emergency wildfires, so we can create the right education materials and resources. We will also respond to any questions you might have for us!

**Please let us know your thoughts on the following...**

1. What do you believe is the most common reasons a wildfire starts?
2. Are you familiar with preparing your landscape and creating a defensible space around your home?
3. Have you ever thought about what you might do if you were caught in a wildfire?

## REPORT SUMMARY

**23 participants responded to the open discussion prompt on wildfires. This discussion was posted 1 week after the EP questionnaire where EP resources were provided. Below are the common themes that emerged from responses, respondent demographics are included at the end of the report. NOTE: This was a small sample size, results and recommendations are not conclusive and should be further explored/validated.**

Most felt wildfires start as a result of human related activity and natural events. 70% of participants believe human activity is cause of wildfires, and 52% felt natural events such as lightning and the effects of climate change contribute to the cause of wildfires.

If caught in a wildfire the consensus is to leave immediately, and preparing a go-bag would allow for quicker evacuation. Others have thought about it, but evacuating for a wildfire is not top of mind due to their location.

Most try to keep their homes free of flammable materials by way of xeriscaping and being mindful, but others expressed concerns of not being able to maintain a defensible space around their home because of NAOS. In situations where homeowners/renters don't have the ability to keep the surrounding area of their home free of debris what are other methods of approaching this?

### Perceived Cause of Wildfires:

- Human activity (Campfires, sparks from chains, fireworks, cigarettes) (16)
- Lightning (8)
- Climate change / Government not adequately maintaining land (4)

### Evacuations Planning & Preparations:

- Prepared go-bag / Leave immediately (7)
- Motivated to think about a plan (4)
- Not seen as a threat in their area (3)
- Unprepared / No plan in place (3)
- Have thought about it, but unsure what to do (1)

### Creating a Defensible Space:

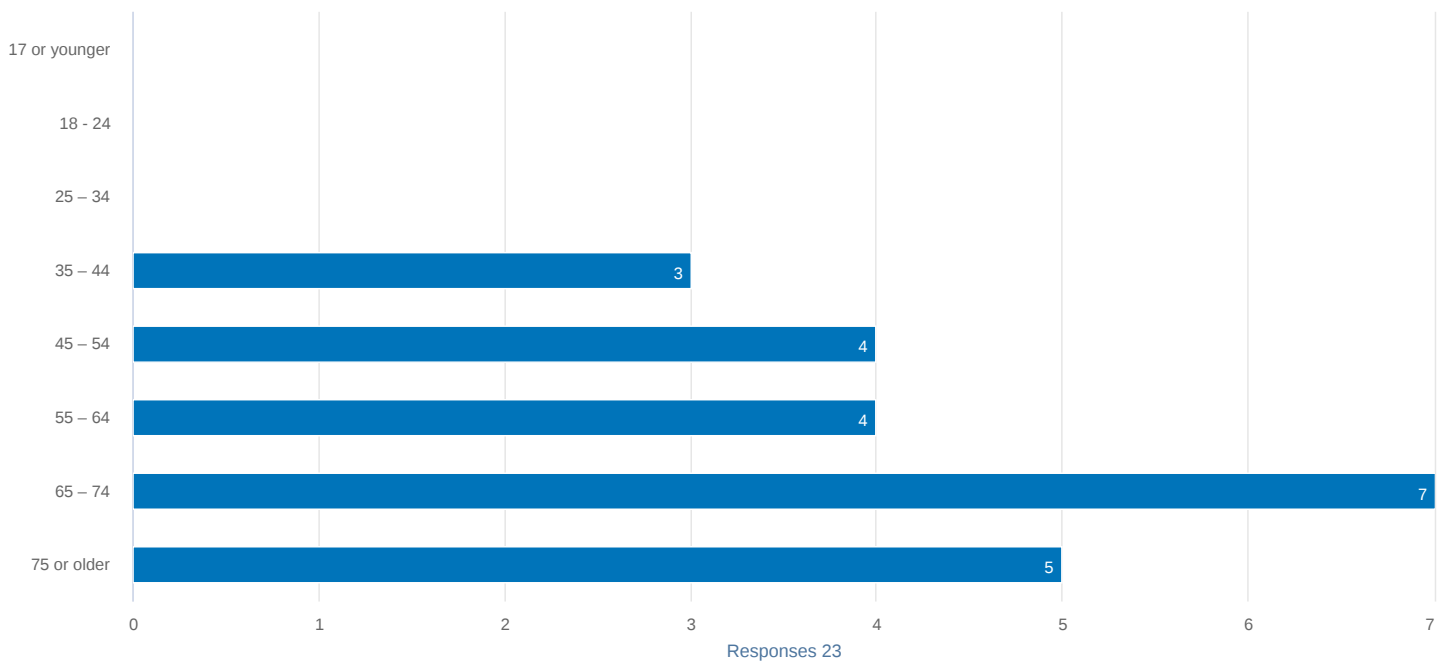
- Xeriscaped property / Have a defensible space (6)
- Limited control over surrounding home / NAOS (5)
- Keep flammable items away from home (2)
- To some degree have a defensible space (1)

| Bucket  | Count |
|---|-------|
| Human activity (Campfires, sparks from chains, fireworks, cigarettes) | 69.6% |
| Lightning   | 34.8% |
| Climate change / Government not adequately maintaining land           | 17.4% |
| Prepared go-bag / Leave immediately                                   | 30.4% |
| Motivated to think about a plan                                       | 17.4% |
| Not seen as a threat in their area                                    | 13.0% |
| Unprepared / No plan in place   | 13.0% |
| Have thought about it, but unsure what to do                          | 4.3%  |
| Xeriscaped property / Have a defensible space                         | 26.1% |
| Limited control over surrounding home / NAOS                          | 21.7% |
| Keep flammable items away from home                                   | 8.7%  |
| To some degree have a defensible space                                | 4.3%  |

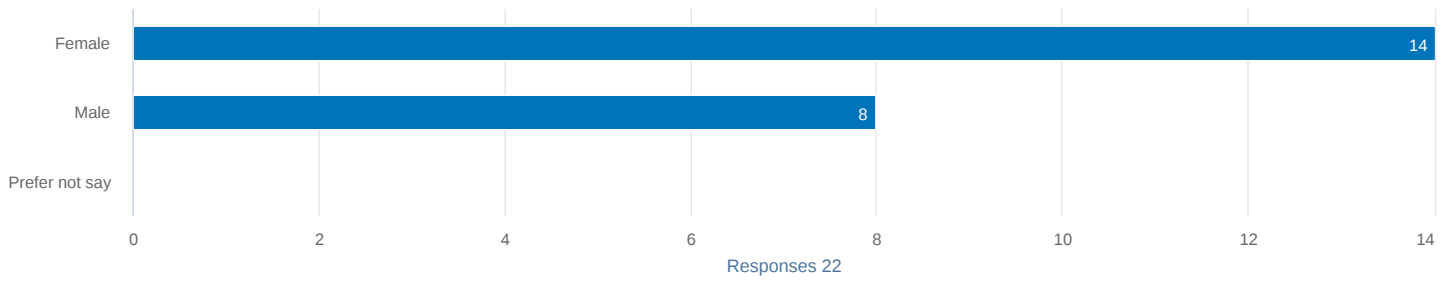
Participants 23

**Demographic Appendix**

**Age**



Gender



Race/Ethnicity

