

July 2008

Emergency Preparedness Pointers

Summertime is Wildfire Time

The weather patterns and environmental conditions that exist during the summer months create an atmosphere of increased risk for wildfires. Wildfires destroy homes and thousands of acres of scenic country each year. They cost millions of dollars to fight and present an extreme risk to human and animal life. While we cannot stop fires from occurring naturally, we can limit the human causes. In 2007, there were over 1,000 human caused fires in southern Idaho and Utah that burned more than 288,000 acres. All of those were preventable.

HUMAN CAUSES

Summertime is a great time to be outdoors. However, many of the activities we enjoy, if handled carelessly, can pose a threat of wildfire.



- ✗ Unattended and/or ill prepared campfires
- ✗ Sparks or heat from equipment or vehicles
- ✗ Tossed, still burning, smoking materials
- ✗ Unsafe use of gas stoves, barbeques and lanterns
- ✗ Improper handling of fireworks



FIRE PREVENTION PRACTICES FOR . .

Campfires

- ✓ Clear the campfire site down to bare soil.
- ✓ Contain the fire in a rock ring.
- ✓ Never leave a campfire unattended.
- ✓ Keep the campfire away from overhanging branches and steep slopes.
- ✓ Keep a water bucket and a shovel nearby.
- ✓ To extinguish a campfire, drown it, stir it and then drown it again.

Fireworks

- ✓ Never light fireworks on dry grass or near dry brush or in any restricted area.
- ✓ Always have an extinguisher or water source available.
- ✓ Do not wear loose fitting or flammable, synthetic clothing while using fireworks.
- ✓ Never attempt to re-ignite any firework that does not go off. Douse it with water and dispose of it properly.

Vehicle and Equipment Operation

- ✓ Never park your vehicle on dry grass.
- ✓ Avoid driving through tall grass.
- ✓ Internal combustion engines on off-road vehicles require a clean and functioning spark arrester.
- ✓ Carry a shovel and fire extinguisher on your OHV/ATV.
- ✓ Be aware of sparks that may be thrown from operating a chainsaw or other powered equipment.

Smoking Outdoors

- ✓ Never throw any lighted smoking materials on the ground. Always extinguish them fully before putting them in a trash receptacle.
- ✓ Strictly adhere to all smoking restrictions and guidelines that are posted for the area you are in.

Gas grills, stoves and lanterns

- ✓ Do not overfill propane tanks.
- ✓ Check all fittings, connections and hoses to make sure there are no obstructions or leaks.

REPORT ALL WILDFIRES

The sooner a fire is reported, the greater the chance that it can be contained before it does great damage.

CALL 911



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