

Wildfire Awareness and Prevention Tips

A wildfire is defined as an uncontrolled fire spreading through natural or unnatural vegetation that often has the potential to threaten lives and property if not contained and include common terms such as forest fires, brush fires, grass fires, wild land urban interface fires, range fires or ground fires.

Every year, thousands of acres of forest and parkland are needlessly destroyed due to careless fire management. Do your part to help prevent wildfires.

- Never leave a campfire or cooking grill unattended when camping or picnicking in a park. When you are done, be sure to completely extinguish the fire by dousing it with water and stirring the ashes until cold before sleeping or leaving the campsite or picnic area.
- Only build fires in designated areas whether it is for cooking or camping, never build a fire that is uncontained.
- If there is a fire ban, refrain from making a fire. If camping, use alternative cooking methods such as a propane or butane stove.
- When camping, take care when using and fueling lanterns, stoves, and heaters. Make sure lighting and heating devices are cool before refueling. Avoid spilling flammable liquids and store fuel away from appliances.
- Do not discard cigarettes, matches and smoking materials from moving vehicles, or anywhere on park grounds. Be certain to completely extinguish cigarettes before disposing of them.
- Follow local ordinances when burning yard waste. Avoid backyard burning in windy conditions, and keep a shovel, water, and fire retardant nearby to keep fires in check. Remove all flammables from yard when burning.
- If you notice an unattended or out-of-control fire, contact 911 or the local fire department.

Evacuation Tips

- If you are in an area where there is an active wildfire and you are advised to evacuate, do so immediately.
- Know your evacuation route ahead of time and prepare an evacuation checklist and emergency supplies.
- Wear protective clothing and footwear to protect yourself from flying sparks and ashes.

For more information:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/42378.html>

<http://www.smokeybear.com/>

<http://www.ready.gov/wildfires>