

2011 FIRE PREVENTION TALKING POINTS

Temperatures may be dropping but the woods are heating up!

Rainfall occurred over much of East Texas but not enough to end the drought!

In the past 7 days, state resources have responded to 47 fires for 1,284 acres and volunteer fire departments have reported 71 fires for 1,368 acres.

Your county may be under a burning ban. Please check with your county judge or this web site:
<http://ticc.tamu.edu/>.

FIRE RESTRICTIONS

Safety is our number one concern for the public and our firefighters.

Because conditions are dangerously dry, there are burn bans in certain counties in East Texas (check with your county judge).

In the national forests, open fires such as campfires and charcoal grills are prohibited due to drought conditions and high fire danger levels. The restriction is on open fires such as campfires, charcoal grills and smoking. You can still use propane or liquid fuel stoves (like “Coleman” stoves).

FIRE PREVENTION TIPS

Never drive or idle your vehicle on dry grass.

Never toss cigarettes or matches on the ground. Make sure they are out and disposed of properly.

Don't run power equipment (such as mowers or chainsaws) on dry windy days. Sparks from the blade or chain may start a fire.

If you must burn and outdoor fires are permitted, be smart. Contact your local volunteer fire department before beginning. Check the weather; don't burn on a windy day. Have water and tools handy and stay with your fire until it is cold to the touch. Everything in Texas doesn't have to be big; keep your piles small and burn one at a time.

Create a fire-safe zone around your home. Clear flammable vegetation from around you home at least 30 feet away. Keep your roof and gutters clean. Don't stack firewood against the house.

Teach your children about fire safety; remember what Smokey Bear teaches us: Always be careful—*Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!* For more information: www.firewise.org or www.smokeybear.com.

Report wildfires or any suspicious fire activity immediately (9-1-1).

Arson is a crime!
To report suspicious activity call
1-800-364-3470

For more information: <http://ticc.tamu.edu/>