



JACKSON BUREAU OF FIRE SAFETY

FIRE DISTRICT No. 1 & 3

FIRE SAFETY INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN

2004-007



ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDFIRES.

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**EMERGENCY
DIAL
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Outdoor Fire Safety

New Jersey's greatest danger of wildfires occurs during the spring months of March, April, and May, and the autumn months of October and November. Because trees are bare during these months, sunlight is allowed to reach the ground and dry the leaf litter on the forest floor. Winds during the spring and fall can be strong and dry, thus creating a deep, fluffy layer of hazardous forest fuels. Lastly, an ignition source can spark these fuels, creating a devastating wildfire. Regardless of the season, conditions often allow wildfires to start. Wildfires may occur during any month and at any time of day, damaging valuable forests and natural resources, and threatening improved property and human lives.

Wildfires can be prevented! 99% of all wildfires in New Jersey can be prevented by being careful with the use of fire. The following tips can help you enjoy fire safely in the outdoors. For more information about fire safety in New Jersey's Outdoors, contact your local Forest Firewarden.

Lanterns, Stoves, and Heaters

Cool all lanterns, stoves, and heaters before refueling them. They should be refueled on the ground in a cleared area; if any fuel spills, move the appliance to a new area before lighting it. Store flammable liquid fuel

containers in a safe place. Never light lanterns and stoves inside a tent, trailer, or camper. If you use a lantern or stove inside a tent or trailer, be sure to have adequate ventilation. Always read and follow instructions provided by the manufacturer.

Spark Arresters

All types of equipment and vehicles are required to have spark arresters. Chain saws, portable generators, cross-country vehicles, and trail bikes, for example, require spark arresters if used in or near grass, brush, or wooded areas. Check with your local dealer to ensure that the spark arrester is functioning properly.

Smoking

When smoking outdoors, safe practices require proper disposal of smoking materials and matches. Grind out your cigarette, cigar, or pipe tobacco in mineral soil and ensure that match heads are cold before disposing. Be careful when smoking while riding a horse or trail bike.

Charcoal Briquets

After using burning charcoal briquets, "dunk 'em!" Don't sprinkle. Soak the coals with lots of water; stir them and soak again. Be sure they are out -- **Cold!** Carefully feel the coals with your bare hands to be sure.



CAMPFIRE SAFETY

1. ALL campfires require a PERMIT from your local Forest Fire Warden
2. Check the weather conditions; don't burn on dry, windy days!
3. Build campfires away from trees, overhanging branches, stumps, logs, dense dry grass, & forest litter.
4. Keep plenty of water handy and have a shovel for throwing dirt on the fire if it gets out of control.
5. Keep the campfire small. A good bed of coals or a small fire surrounded by rocks gives plenty of heat.
6. Scrape away litter, duff, and any organic material for a radius of 10-feet in all directions.
6. Drown the fire with water. Make sure all embers are wet. Move rocks, there may be burning embers.
7. Stir the remains, add more water, and stir again. Be sure all burned material has been extinguished
8. If you do not have water, use dirt. Mix enough soil or sand with the embers.
9. Feel all materials with your bare hand. Make sure that no roots are burning.
10. Never leave a campfire unattended!! Even a small breeze could quickly cause the fire to spread.