

## **Take Action to Prevent Wildland Fires**

Preventing wildland fires is everyone's responsibility. It's never too early or late to assess wildfire risk at home or exercise fire prevention strategies.

Follow these tips to reduce the threat of fire in Arizona:

### **Take Precautions**

- Use caution when engaged in fire-causing activities, whether it is for industrial, home or recreational purposes.
- Use spark arrestors in mechanical equipment such as chain saws and off-road vehicles.
- Ensure that campfires and smoking materials are completely extinguished.
- Observe "Red Flag" warnings. Warnings are issued by fire agencies when weather conditions are conducive to the easy start and rapid spread of wildfires. In such instances, citizens should refrain from activities that could cause fire and obey all fire restrictions and area closures.

### **Driving Hazards**

- When you pull off a roadway, do not park in grassy areas.
- When pulling trailers, attach safety chains securely; loose chains can drag on the pavement and cause sparks, igniting roadside fires.

### **Around the House**

- Create and maintain a defensible space of 15 feet around your home by thinning shrubbery and pruning trees.
- Remove dead undergrowth within a 30-foot radius of your home.
- Monitor defensible space for maximum fire prevention.
- Trim trees within the 30-foot defensible space area, so that the canopy does not touch the ground. Remove dead branches and leaves.
- Clean gutters, eaves and the roof of leaves and debris.
- Do not stack wood or other flammable materials inside the 30-foot defensible space area.
- Keep a rolled up garden hose with a nozzle attached to an outside valve.
- For technical assistance, contact your local fire department or the nearest State Forestry office.

### **Prevention on Public Lands**

- Do not smoke in natural area open space.

- Do not ignite open fires without a permit or following the safety information.
- When camping, abide by U.S. Forest Service [campfire guidelines](#).

The City of Scottsdale also has a [home safety checklist](#) available for download.

(Sources: [Governor's Office](#), [Arizona State Forestry Division](#), [City of Scottsdale](#))