

## **Wildland Fire Prevention December 2003**

### Questions & Answers

#### **Why is wildland fire prevention so important?**

The Kaibab National Forest's first line of defense against wildland fire is prevention. If we can reduce the number of preventable human-caused fires, we will have more firefighting resources available to fight the inevitable, naturally-caused fires that occur.

#### **What can I do to help prevent fires in the forest when I'm camping?**

It is important to know how to correctly build and put out your campfire. Please take the following steps:

- Clear a campfire site down to bare soil.
- Build a fire ring out of rocks.
- Keep the fire under four feet in diameter, with no less than a 10-foot clearance around it.
- Build the fire away from overhanging branches, steep slopes and dry grass.
- Never leave a campfire unattended. Even a small breeze can cause a fire to spread rapidly.
- Keep a bucket of water and a shovel near the campfire.
- When putting a campfire out, drown it with water. Stir the fire with water and dirt until all the fuel is cold to the touch. Never leave a fire until it is out cold.

Campers should also be careful with gas lanterns, barbeques, gas stoves and anything that could be a source of ignition for a wildland fire.

#### **What can I do to help protect my property from wildland fire?**

Individuals are responsible for ensuring that they have taken reasonable steps to protect their property from wildland fire. A good place to start is the FIREWISE Web site. By visiting [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org), you can learn many techniques to help make your property safer.

Individuals can do many inexpensive things to protect their property such as raking leaves from their yards, clearing pine needles off their roofs and rain gutters, and moving woodpiles away from their homes. Clearing flammable materials from around your home creates a defensible, survivable space when fire comes to your neighborhood. Maintaining a 30- to 50-foot buffer around your home of fire-resistant landscaping reduces the chance of wildland fire spreading to your home.

Consider these guidelines:

- Remove pine needles and debris from your roof, gutters and from around your home.
- Install spark arresters on chimneys.
- Keep tree limbs back 15 feet from your chimneys.
- Remove brush a minimum of 30 feet from any structure.

- Move woodpiles 30 feet away from any structure.
- Remove combustible storage from under decks and eaves.
- Prune trees 10 feet from the ground.
- Ensure your address is visible and distinguishable from the street, both day and night.

### **What can kids do to help prevent wildland fires?**

Kids can help prevent wildland fires by:

- never playing with matches, lighters, flammable liquids, or any fire
- telling their friends about fire prevention and sharing their knowledge about what to do in a fire emergency
- staying calm during an emergency and listening to the instructions given to them by their parents or guardians
- remembering their assigned meeting place and coming promptly upon hearing the signal
- keeping their toys, bikes and belongings out of the driveway so firefighters and their equipment can come through during a fire emergency

### **What should I do if I see a wildland fire?**

You should always report any fire and also note any suspicious activities you may see. If you see a wildland fire, you should call 911 immediately.

### **Is there anything else I should know?**

Keep in mind that dry vegetation – both living and dead – is easily ignited. Think before you act. Consider that the following objects and activities could start a wildland fire:

- sparks from chainsaws
- reflected and magnified sunlight from broken glass
- tossed cigarettes
- discarded fireworks
- abandoned campfires
- hot vehicle exhaust systems
- unattended debris burning

For more information about wildland fire prevention, please contact Craig Christman or Jackie Denk at 928-635-5600.