

Wildfire Season in Ohio

Ohio's wildfire seasons occur primarily in the spring (March, April and May) before vegetation has turned green and in the fall (October and November) when vegetation is dying and leaves are falling. During these times vegetation is particularly susceptible to burning, especially when weather conditions are dry, warm, and windy. Wildfires may burn in the summer during extreme drought condition or on dry, windy winter days. Nearly all wildfires in Ohio are caused by people and may be prevented through awareness and education.



**Be smart with fire,
be safe with fire!**

**FIRE
WISE**

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY

**For more information, contact
the local fire department at:**

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Division of Forestry
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Columbus, OH 43229
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Outdoor Fire Safety in Ohio

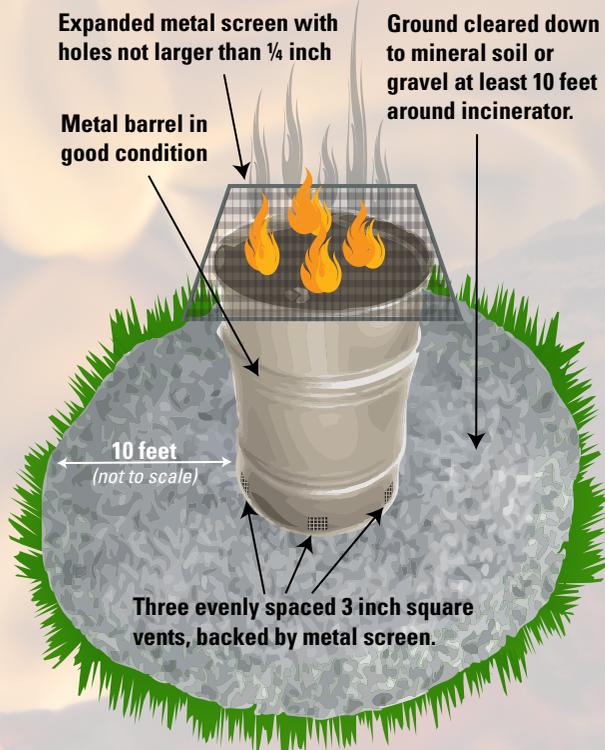
Intentionally set fires that escape control are the most common source of wildfire in Ohio. Careless burning of debris, escaped campfires, discarded cigarettes and children playing with matches or lighters are all preventable causes of wildfire. Incendiary fire (arson) is also a cause of wildfires in Ohio every year. Most wildfires can be prevented by being smart with fire.

Do your part to prevent destructive wildfires.

TRASH AND DEBRIS BURNING

- Open burning is prohibited by law in Ohio during the months of March, April, May, October and November from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. (*ORC 1503.18*).
- Never burn on windy days.
- Consider alternatives such as composting and recycling.
- Always use a burn barrel with a mesh cover.

BURN BARREL SPECIFICATIONS



CAMPFIRE SAFETY

- Adult supervision is always required around fires.
- Keep campfires away from steep slopes, overhanging branches and dry leaves or grass.
- Clear a small area down to bare soil and build a fire ring from rocks, or dig a shallow pit for your fire.
- Have water and a shovel handy for emergency use if the fire gets out of control.
- Before leaving the area or going to sleep, be sure that the fire is out and ashes are cold.



AGRICULTURAL USE OF FIRE

- Farmers who burn off fields or agricultural residue must observe all applicable ORC 1503.18 regulations.
- Do not burn when weather conditions are hot, dry or windy.

SMOKING

- Grind all smoking materials out on a rock or in bare soil until ashes are cold.
- Never discard cigarette butts on the ground or out of car windows. Use an ashtray or trash can, or put them in your pocket.
- Do not smoke while horseback riding, driving an ATV or hiking in the woods.

ARSON/INCENDIARY FIRES

- Arson is a felony in Ohio, in both structural fire and wildfire situations.
- If you see someone setting an incendiary fire, note a description of the individual, their vehicle and license plate number if available.
- Note the time of day, location and general travel direction of the arsonist.
- Call law enforcement and the fire department as soon as possible.

EDUCATION

- Share your outdoor fire safety knowledge with others, especially with children.
- If you observe unsafe fire practices, try to help correct it, or contact the local fire department or law enforcement.