

Tulsa Fire Department
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Enjoying the Outdoors

Safely During Fire Season

As many as 90 percent of wildland fires in the U.S. are caused by humans - from causes as wide ranging as campfires left unattended, the burning of debris, negligently discarded cigarettes, to intentional acts of arson. The remaining 10 percent are started by lightning or lava. These fires can have devastating effects on the environment and the surrounding communities.

Keep these tips in mind for an enjoyable outdoor experience during fire season and to do your part to prevent wildland fires:

- Before going hiking or camping, check with public land management agencies for fire restrictions or area closures.
- Plan ahead: know your route, sign in at the trailhead, let someone else know where you are going and be sure to know how to get out!
- If you use a campfire, make sure it is fully extinguished before leaving the area - be sure it is cold to the touch.
- If you are using a portable stove, make sure the area is clear of grasses and other fine fuels, such as brush and leaves. Prevent stoves from tipping and starting a fire.
- Consider alternatives to camp fires during periods of high fire danger.
- Practice Leave No Trace principles - pack out all cigarette butts and burned materials from your camping area. Leave nothing but footprints.
- Be aware of sudden changes in the weather or changing weather conditions. For example, if you see a thunderstorm approaching, consider leaving the area.
- If you see smoke, fire, or suspicious activities note the location as best you can and report it to authorities. Do NOT attempt to contact suspicious people or try to put out a fire by yourself.
- If you see a wildland fire, report its location. Avoid traveling near it.
- Be careful of parking or driving your car or ATV in tall, dry, vegetation, such as grass. The hot underside of the vehicle may start a fire.