



## FIRE SEASON SAFETY TIPS

Whether working to create defensible space around your home, just mowing the lawn or pulling your dirt bike over to the side of the road, if you live in a wildland area you need to use all equipment responsibly. Lawnmowers, weed-eaters, chain saws, grinders, welders, tractors and trimmers can all spark a wildland fire.

Here's some tips to keep your home and our community fire safe:

- Mow before 10:00 a.m., but never when it's windy or excessively dry. Lawnmowers are designed to mow lawns, not weeds or dry grass. Metal blades striking rocks can create sparks and start fires. Use caution.
- Use a weed-eater to cut down dry weeds and grass.
- Remove rocks in the area before you begin operating any equipment. A rock hidden in grass or weeds is enough to start a fire when struck by a metal blade.
- In wildland areas, spark arresters are required on all portable gasoline-powered equipment. This includes tractors, harvesters, chainsaws, weed-eaters, mowers, motorcycles and All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV's).
- Keep the exhaust system, spark arresters and mower in proper working order and free of carbon buildup. Use the recommended grade of fuel and don't top it off. Keep the engine free of oil and dust, and keep the mower free of flammable materials.
- Defensible space is your property's front line defense against wildfire. Creating and maintaining defensible space around your home can dramatically increase your home's chance of surviving a wildfire and improves the safety of firefighters defending your property.
- **Keep 30 Feet of Lean, Clean and Green:**
  - Remove all dead plants and weeds.
  - Remove dead or dry leaves and pine needles from your yard, roof and rain gutters.
  - Keep tree branches 10 feet away from your chimney and other trees.
- **30-100 Feet of Reduced Fuel:**
  - Cut or mow annual grass down to a maximum of 4 inches.
  - Create horizontal spacing between shrubs and trees.
  - Create vertical spacing between grass, shrubs and trees. Large trees don't have to be cut and removed as long as all the plants beneath them are removed. This eliminates a vertical "fire ladder."
- Keep a cell phone nearby and call 9-1-1 **immediately** in case of fire.
- Don't drive your vehicle onto dry grass or brush. Hot exhaust pipes and mufflers can start fires that you won't even see – until it's too late!

***If you would like more information on how to keep your home fire safe, please contact us at (530)225-4141.***