



Texas Department of Public Safety

Information for the News Media

Media Relations Office

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Sept. 5, 2011

WILDFIRE PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

AUSTIN – High winds and dry conditions are causing extreme wildfire danger across the state. Broadcast media can greatly assist the Texas public by using these Public Service Announcements.

WILDFIRE DANGER AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Texans face extreme wildfire danger. Avoid parking vehicles in tall, dry grass and weeds. Weeds and grass could be ignited by hot catalytic converters. Crush cigarettes in an ashtray and make sure they are really out. Be cautious about outdoor activities that might cause sparks or fires. Sparks can easily escape from burning trash. Avoid using welding or grinding equipment near dry weeds and grass.

DON'T DRIVE INTO SMOKE ON THE ROAD

Wind driven wildfire can move as fast as 60 miles per hour. When you see thick smoke across a highway, do not drive into it. Slow down. Prepare to stop and turn around. Activate your emergency flashers to warn vehicles following you. Check for oncoming traffic. Make sure you can turn around safely. Remember, when there is dense smoke on the road; do not drive in to it.

STAY ALERT TO WILDFIRE DANGER WHEN TRAVELING

Texans face extreme wildfire danger. Check fire and weather conditions before you get on the road. Monitor radio broadcasts while traveling. In areas where there may be wildfire, watch for highway signs, traffic control personnel and fire fighters. Slow down and prepare to stop when they signal you to do so. Remember, wind driven wildfire can move as fast as 60 miles per hour. If you see dense smoke on the road, do not drive into it.

WILDFIRE DANGER TO RURAL HOMES AND SUBURBS

Whether you live in a rural or suburban area, you can protect your home from the dangers of wildfire. Protect your property by clearing brush and grass away from your home and buildings. Clear out brush between trees. Prune lower branches. Make sure areas under utility lines are clear of brush, tall grass and trees so that utility service will continue. Create a fire break by clearing vegetation from areas between your house and nearby fields or wildland areas.

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