



Weather Cooler But Vegetation Still Dry

In spite of a small amount of precipitation and an occasional day of cooler temperatures, fire danger remains high in Oregon and Washington. Long-term drought and higher than normal temperatures this summer have made Oregon and Washington forests and grasslands extremely dry. Although recent showers in some areas have moistened fine fuels, such as twigs, pine needles and grasses, large fuels such as branches, logs and downed trees are still very dry inside and will burn with great intensity.

Help prevent wildfires by following these important tips:

- Smoke only in areas cleared of dry vegetation. Crush all cigarettes dead out. Cigarettes butts thrown from vehicle windows can cause wildfires.
- Build campfires in designated areas, away from combustible materials, overhanging limbs and tents. Make sure campfires are fully extinguished and cool to the touch before leaving the area.
- Keep matches and lighters away from children.
- Park your vehicle away from dry grass. Make sure chainsaws, ATVs and motorcycles have spark arrestors.
- Follow local restrictions on burning and building campfires. Check with the local fire protection agency for the latest restriction before going to the outdoor recreation area.

Take steps to protect your property. Homeowners, you can find information on creating a fire safe environment around your house by contacting your local fire protection agency or visit www.or.blm.gov/nwfire.

I'm concerned about WILDFIRE!