



# WILDFIRE PREVENTION

Wildfires can cause major environmental, social and economic damages. The loss of timber, wildlife habitat, homes and even lives may result from a devastating wildfire. Wildfire prevention is key to protecting Floridians homes, lives and property.

On average, Florida experiences the second highest number of wildfires in the nation.

During dry years, Florida may endure severe wildfires that destroy homes, disrupt people's lives and impact our economy. This year Florida has experienced more than 2,000 wildfires that have impacted 67,640 acres.

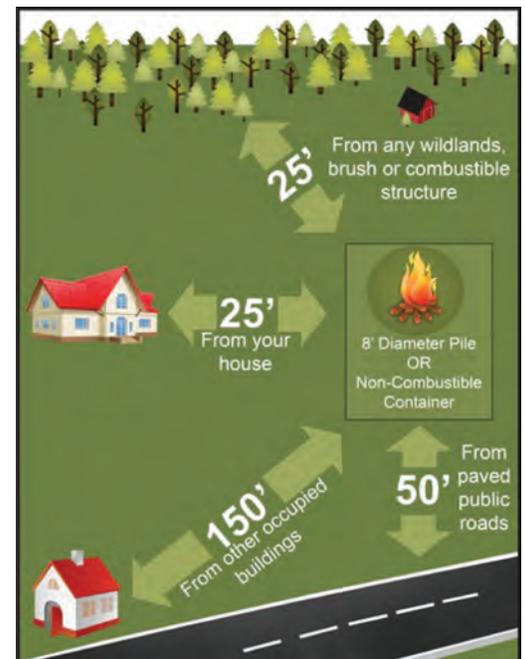
In addition to lightning, arson and escaped debris burns are two of many types of human-caused wildfires.

Florida's fire-dependent ecosystems and year-round wildfires pose a challenge to wildland firefighters in their attempt to continually educate Floridians and visitors about wildfire danger in Florida. The Florida Forest Service has several education and mitigation programs aimed at reducing all types of fire. For more information, visit [FloridaForestService.com](http://FloridaForestService.com).

## OUTDOOR BURNING TIPS

- Check with your local Florida Forest Service office to make sure it is legal to burn in your area.
- Make sure you meet the required setbacks.
- Burn only yard waste (natural debris such as grass clippings, brush, leaves, tree limbs, palm fronds, etc.), no household garbage (including paper products, treated lumber, plastics, rubber materials, tires, pesticides, paint and aerosol containers).
- Don't burn on windy days, and NEVER leave a fire unattended.
- Keep a water hose or shovel handy in case your fire escapes.
- Make sure smoke does not obstruct visibility on nearby roads.
- Be sure fire is completely out before you leave.

## REQUIRED SETBACKS FOR YARD WASTE BURNING



## WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT ARSON

Anyone with information about a wildfire believed set by an arsonist should contact a Florida Forest Service field office or call 1-800-342-5869. Ask to speak to the District Manager or Fire Investigator responsible for the area involved.



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 Adam H. Putnam, Commissioner