



Florida Forest Service

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cool, Dry Weather Bringing Changes

Tallahassee, Fla.- The volume of damaged and down trees from Hurricane Michael is unprecedented. Currently there is ten times more fuel per acre (on the ground) than before the storm. This exponential increase in the fuel load on the ground has created the potential for a significant increase in the number, intensity and danger of wildfires in our area.

During April and May, our area experiences dryer conditions and low humidity. “This combination can cause vegetation to dry quickly and become more susceptible to ignition,” says Chris Colburn, Tallahassee Forestry Center Manager.

Escaped yard waste burning is a leading cause of wildfire in our area. The Florida Forest Service is asking residents to use extra care when choosing to burn yard debris. Everyone can help prevent wildfires by knowing Florida’s outdoor burning laws.

Burning Setbacks and Requirements: Piles greater than 8’ in diameter require an authorization. Call (850) 681-5950. Piles less than 8’ in diameter must meet these requirements:

- 25’ from woodlands or other structures
- 25’ from your home
- 50’ from a paved road
- 150’ from your neighbor’s home
- Fire must be ignited after 8:00am CST or 9:00am EST
- Fire must be extinguished one hour before sunset
- Never leave fire unattended
- Never burn on windy days

The Florida Forest Service, a division of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, manages more than 1 million acres of state forests and provides forest management assistance on more than 17 million acres of private and community forests. The Florida Forest Service is also responsible for protecting homes, forestland and natural resources from the devastating effects of wildfire on more than 26 million acres. Learn more at FloridaForestService.com.

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