

Loss Prevention Safety Tip



Loss Prevention
Program

By Red River Mutual

GRASS FIRE SAFETY

A grass fire differs from other fires by its extensive size, the speed at which it can spread out from its original source, its potential to change direction unexpectedly and its ability to jump gaps such as roads, rivers and fire breaks.

To prevent dangerous grass fires, assess your property to determine its risk. Tall trees, wild grass, shrubs and any other combustible materials can all contribute to spreading a fire. During drought or extended lengths of dry weather, this vegetation can become perfect fuel for a fire driven by strong winds. Some simple planning will greatly reduce the threat to your home, property and community.



- Do not throw cigarette or cigar butts on the ground or out of a vehicle. Dispose of them properly and make sure they are completely extinguished.
- Keep a 30 foot "safety zone" surrounding your home. This area should be clear of brush, with grass cut short. Store firewood and other combustible materials at least 30 feet away from any buildings. For homes that sit on a steep slope, the safety zone should be increased accordingly.
- Keep your yard healthy, cut, and watered. It is a natural firebreak.
- Clean up dead leaves and twigs from yard, roof and gutters. Cut tree limbs within 15 feet of the ground and remove dead branches that extend over the roof.
- Do not park cars, trucks or recreational vehicles on dry grass or shrubs. Exhaust systems on vehicles can reach temperatures of more than 500°C degrees; it only takes about 200°C to start a grass fire in the summer.
- Use an approved spark arrester on all internal combustion engine power equipment. This special muffler helps ensure that sparks generated by off road vehicles, chainsaws and other equipment don't start grass fires.
- Parents should emphasize to their children the dangers of playing with fire. Children who have no idea how quickly flames can grow and spread start many grass fires.
- Homeowners who barbeque should maintain a 10 foot area free of brush and shrubbery around grills and propane tanks. Never leave a grill unattended.
- Keep a shovel, bucket of water, fire extinguisher or garden hose on hand any time while burning outside.
- If conducting a controlled burn, have a water hose close by and inform your local fire department before burning.

See more loss prevention tips at www.preventingloss.com

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