

# Fire Agencies Warn New Mexicans About Fall Fire Danger

As the fall and winter holidays approach and more New Mexicans plan vacations or hunting trips close to home, federal and state fire agencies are urging caution about fire danger across many parts of the state. Lack of moisture and warm mild conditions this fall have caused fine, grassy fuels and brush to dry, making them susceptible to wildfire.

Here are some suggestions to help prevent wildfires:

## For Campers, Hunters and Drivers:

- If you do not need a fire, do not build one.
- Use established campfire rings when available.
- Make sure campfires are away from overhanging branches, steep slopes and leaves.
- Keep water and a shovel near the campfire.
- One hour before leaving, douse the campfire with water and stir.
- Make sure the fire is cool to the touch before leaving the area---even if you are only leaving for a short time.
- Children should always be supervised by adults whenever you have a campfire.
- Only smoke in approved areas and dispose of smoking materials properly.
- While driving, avoid pulling over into areas with tall grass. Hot catalytic converters or exhaust particles can ignite grasses along the roadway.
- If pulling a trailer, make sure chains are not dragging along the pavement, as the sparks can fly and start a fire.

## For Landowners:

- Thin trees and brush near structures.
- Remove weeds and mow dry grasses.
- Clear twig and leaf litter from roofs and gutters.
- Stack firewood well away from structures.
- Surround structures with drought and fire-resistant or an irrigated landscape.
- Have an evacuation plan.

***On behalf of your fire response agencies please be fire safe.  
Reduce fire risk on your landscape and remember campfires dead out!***

