

# Wildfire Information 2023

In Florida, severe weather can include hazardous conditions produced by thunderstorms, including damaging winds, tornadoes, large hail, flooding, and flash flooding. These weather conditions can also produce secondary hazards to include downed electrical lines, downed trees, washed out roadways, lightning generated wildfires.

I am going to highlight Wildfires.

A wildfire, forest fire, bushfire, wildland fire or rural fire is an unplanned, uncontrolled, and unpredictable fire in an area of combustible vegetation. Depending on the type of vegetation present, a wildfire may be more specifically identified as a bushfire, desert fire, grass fire, hill fire, peat fire, prairie fire, vegetation fire, or veld fire. Some natural forest ecosystems depend on wildfire.

Here is an interesting statistic, 90% of all wildfires are caused by humans. Human acts of carelessness such as leaving campfires, yard debris piles, burn barrels unattended result in preventable, out of control fires that put lives and property at risk. Also, negligent discarding of lite cigarettes results in wildfire disasters every year.

Prevention of wildfires includes a multitude of efforts across different scales including policymaking, forest management, education, and training. These efforts share the same goal of reducing probability of fire ignition and managing the growth and force of fire events.

When it is dry or windy, please do not burn anything. But if you must burn remember the only thing you can legally burn is yard debris. You cannot burn construction materials, garbage or yard debris not generated on your property. When the Florida Division of Forestry issues a burn ban you cannot legally burn anything. A burn ban is a legal restriction issued by the Florida Division of Forestry on all outdoor burning of any kind when there is a risk of a wildfire.

In Leon County, even when burn bans are in effect firefighting professionals both paid and volunteer respond to numerous calls each year to extinguish preventable fires threatening loss of property and lives.

Help us prevent dangerous wildfires by following the guidelines set forth by local officials.

Richard Meuth, Chief  
Woodville Volunteer Fire Department  
"Volunteers Serving Our Community with Pride"