Don’t be the reason for wildfire season!

"Wildfire season" in South Carolina

While large western wildfires dominate national news every summer, forest fire danger in the Palmetto State, like in most of the U.S. South, is usually highest in late winter and early spring (January through mid-April). March is frequently the busiest month for wildland firefighters, but some of the largest fires have occurred during the first two weeks of April. South Carolina's fire season is in the winter because most vegetation is dead or dormant during that time, and relative humidity tends to be much lower. Fires do not start or spread as quickly when vegetation is green and air moisture is high.

SC wildfire facts

- Nearly 98% of wildfires in SC are human-caused.
- Escaped debris burns are the No. 1 cause of wildfires in SC.
- On average SC has 1,400 wildfires that burn 14,000 acres each year.

Think before you burn!

1. **Don't burn if you don't absolutely have to.**
   - Consider bagging your yard debris and taking it to a landfill instead.

2. **Check the weather.**
   - Wait until later to burn if it's windy outside, especially if relative humidity is low and/or it's been a while since a good, soaking rain.

3. **Notify the Forestry Commission before burning outdoors. It's the law!**
   - Use our online system or call your county's toll-free line, both available at scfc.gov/notify (see back page).

4. **Take the proper precautions:**
   - Only burn woody, vegetative material like leaves, limbs and branches.
   - Clear a space – aka firebreak – around the fire at least as wide as the burn pile itself.
   - Have water and tools at hand and ready to keep the fire under control.
   - Never leave the fire unattended, and stay with it until it is completely out and drowned with water.

To learn more about wildfire prevention in South Carolina, please visit scfc.gov/fire-prevention.

Notify before you burn!

Use the Forestry Commission's online notification system by visiting scfc.gov/notify or scanning the QR code. You may also make notification by calling your county's toll-free number listed below.

Abbeville	1-800-895-7056
Aiken	1-800-895-7057
Allendale	1-800-895-7058
Anderson	1-800-895-7059
Bamberg	1-800-895-7060
Barnwell	1-800-895-7061
Beaufort	1-800-895-7062
Berkeley	1-800-895-7063
Calhoun	1-800-895-7064
Charleston	1-800-986-3593
Cherokee	1-800-986-3594
Chester	1-800-986-3595
Chesterfield	1-800-986-3596
Clarendon	1-800-986-3597
Colleton	1-800-986-3599
Darlington	1-800-986-3742
Dillon	1-800-986-3745
Dorchester	1-800-986-3746
Edgefield	1-800-986-5138
Fairfield	1-800-986-5162
Florence	1-800-986-5165
Georgetown	1-800-986-5256
Greenville	1-800-986-5299
Greenwood	1-800-986-5327
Hampton	1-800-986-5403
Horry	1-800-986-5404
Jasper	1-800-986-5405
Kershaw	1-800-705-8609
Lancaster	1-800-705-8610
Laurens	1-800-705-8611
Lee	1-800-705-8612
Lexington	1-800-705-8613
Marion	1-800-705-8614
Marlboro	1-800-705-8615
McCormick	1-800-705-8616
Newberry	1-800-705-8617
Oconee	1-800-705-8618
Orangeburg	1-800-517-9636
Pickens	1-800-517-9637
Richland	1-800-517-9638
Saluda	1-800-517-9639
Spartanburg	1-800-517-9640
Sumter	1-800-517-9641
Union	1-800-517-9642
Williamsburg	1-800-517-9643
York	1-800-517-9644