

# ST. LUCIE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT

## BRUSHFIRE SAFETY TIPS



Source: NFPA/ Florida Division of Emergency Management

The dry season is here and every year Florida experiences brushfires. Florida has the second highest number of brushfires in the nation.

People start most brushfires. The top 3 causes of brushfires are arson, burning trash/yard debris and lightning.



Our Family Serving Yours

**Clear** leaves and other vegetative debris from roofs, gutters, porches and decks. This helps prevent embers from igniting your home.

**Remove** dead vegetation and other items from under your deck or porch, and within 10 feet of the house.

**Screen** in areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris and combustibles materials from accumulating.

**Remove** flammable materials (wood piles, propane tanks) within 30 feet of your home's foundation and outbuildings, including garages and sheds. If it can catch fire don't let it touch your house, deck or porch.

Brushfires can spread to tree tops. **Prune** trees so the lowest branches are 6 to 10 feet from the ground.

Keep your lawn hydrated and maintained. If it's brown, **cut it** to reduce fire intensity. Dry grass and shrubs are fuel for brushfires.

Don't let debris and lawn cuttings linger. **Dispose** of these items quickly to reduce fuel for fires.

Follow local regulations for burning of yard and waste materials.

Do not throw out cigarettes into vegetation, potted plants or landscaping, peat moss, dried grasses, mulch, leaves, and other similar items-they can easily catch on fire.

Before you throw out butts and ashes make sure they are out.

Keep cigarettes, lighters, matches, and other smoking materials up high out of the reach of children, in a locked cabinet.

Check with your local fire district or municipality for any restrictions before starting an open-air, recreational, or outdoor cooking fire. Obtain proper permits, if required. You might not be permitted to do outdoor burning in some municipalities and during some seasons.