

Fire Safety Information

As we move into the summer months the persistent drought conditions in most of Arizona have created conditions that could make this a very dangerous fire season. Sheriff John R. Armer would like to offer the citizens of Gila County the following fire safety information to assist them in keeping their homes and surroundings fire safe.

Camping and Picnicking

- Check the area you are headed to for fire/smoking restrictions before you leave.
- Most areas are currently restricted to fires in established campgrounds only with grills or pits, **no open fires**.
- Be sure all fires are out before you leave them, by dousing with water and stirring to be sure all embers are out.

Vehicles

- Never stop/park a vehicle over tall dry grass or shrubs.
- Never stop a vehicle where any vegetation is touching the underside of the vehicle.
- If you do stop on dry or tall grass be sure to check behind you as you leave. Grass burns quickly under dry/windy conditions which can easily turn into a wall of flames in minutes.

Smoking

- Be aware of all smoking restrictions.
- Never throw a cigarette (or ash) out the window of a vehicle. Cigarettes are made to burn slowly and can start fires even hours after being dropped or thrown away.

Fireworks

- Fireworks are illegal throughout the State of Arizona. Sparks from fireworks can easily cause wildfires in dry vegetation.

Chainsaws and Other Equipment

- Sparks from chainsaws, welding torches, and other equipment can easily cause wildfires, or fires around your home.
- Use spark arresters.

- Keep work areas free from vegetation and debris when at all possible.

Home Safety

- Thin trees and brush properly around your home.
- Remove trash and debris from around all structures.
- Clear roofs and gutters of leaves and other debris.
- Remove branches overhanging structures.
- Stack firewood uphill and away from structures.
- Clear vegetation around fire hydrants, cisterns, propane tanks, etc.
- Make sure an outdoor water supply is available (with a hose and nozzle)
- Post address signs clearly visible from the road.
- Install and test smoke detectors regularly.
- Practice a family fire drill and evacuation plan.

For questions or further information please contact the Gila County Sheriff's Office at (928) 474-2208 or (928) 425-4449.