



## **NEWS RELEASE**

Date: April 28, 2010  
Release: Immediately  
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### **(Wildfire Awareness Week is for City Residents, Too!)**

Governor Ted Kulongoski has declared Wildfire Awareness Week to be March 2-8. Hillsboro Fire Department urges you to be fire safe no matter where you go. In 2007, there were over 12,000 fires caused by lightning, but there were 73,446 fires across the country caused by human error. City residents who plan to hike, picnic or vacation in Oregon's beautiful wilderness areas should remember that preventing wildfires applies to them as well as to the residents in the rural areas. To keep those areas green, ensure your all-terrain vehicles (ATV) and motorcycles are equipped with spark arresters. These devices trap most hot particles emitted in the exhaust of internal combustion engines.

When camping, choose your campsite wisely. Use caution at all times and follow these tips with your campfire:

- Ensure there are no area or campground bans on campfires during extremely dry weather.
- Use an existing fire ring or pit whenever possible.
- Keep your fire at least 10 feet from tents, brush, trees and any other combustibles.
- Build a small fire and keep it under control at all times.
- Before retiring for the night, allow the fire to burn down to ash.
- When through with the fire, drown it thoroughly with water. Stir the coals and ashes with a shovel to ensure complete extinguishment. Repeat, if necessary.
- Ensure the ash and coals are cool to the touch before leaving the campsite.
- Never leave a campfire unattended.

Discarded smoking materials are even more dangerous in the wilderness than in the city. Use your vehicle ashtray whenever possible. Never smoke while riding horses, ATVs or motorcycles. You can't control where the embers may land. Grind out your smoking materials in bare earth or rocky soil. Hillsboro Fire Department wants you to have a fire safe summer. For more fire and life safety information, visit: [www.ci.hillsboro.or.us/fire](http://www.ci.hillsboro.or.us/fire) or call 503-681-6166.

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