

Southern Manatee Fire & Rescue District Newsletter

941-751-7675

Governor Scott Issues State of Emergency due to Increased Wildfires Across State

Executive Order 17-120

Due to the drought like conditions across much of central and south Florida combined with the hotter and drier weather, Governor Scott has issued a State of Emergency to ensure we are ready to respond and to be prepared for the risk of fires. Florida wildfires have already burned 250 percent more acreage during the first three months of 2017 than the same time period last year.

The Governor and his staff continue to monitor current conditions across the state and keep in contact with local officials to ensure every resource is available to combat these fires.

You can do your part protecting your home and community by just not burning anything. Do not have any open flames outdoors until these drought conditions change. Be careful of vehicle, lawnmowers or other machinery that gets hot and is used on or parked on dry grass. A fire may easily erupt without warning and spread faster than you realize.

At this time, the best advice we can offer is PLEASE:

DO NOT DO ANY OUTSIDE BURNING.

DO NOT THROW ANY CIGARETTE BUTTS OUT WINDOWS.

USE CAUTION WHEN PARKING VEHICLES OR MACHINERY ON DRY GRASS.

Be ready to leave the area if you are advised to do so. Be prepared.

The National Weather Service issues fire weather watches or warnings

(also known as Red Flag Days) when weather conditions will support increased wildfire activity and rapid fire growth.

Take time and plan ahead. Be prepared to put your escape plan into action.

A Fire Weather Watch is issued when conditions will be present within 12-72 hours. It is issued to alert fire and land management agencies to the possibility that Red Flag conditions may exist. The Fire Weather Watch remains in effect until it expires, is canceled or upgrades to a Red Flag Warning.

A Fire Warning (Red Flag) is issued when the conditions will be present within 24 hours. The Warning is brought on by drought conditions, very low humidity and high winds. The conditions are ideal for wildfire combustion and rapid spread. The warning means a high fire danger with the increase of a quick spread. During the time when a Red Flag is issued, all outside burning is banned.

Red Flag Day

What is Wildland Fire Danger Index?

The Wildland Fire Danger Index (FDI) is a reference scale estimating the potential for a fire to start and required suppression action on a given day. The components consist of the forecast, the Energy Release Component and the actual minimum relative humidity. The forecast FDI is based on the National Weather Service forecast for an area based on observations taken at 1 pm.

Did you know? A home within one mile of a natural area is in the Ember Zone. Wind driven embers can destroy homes far from the actual flame front of the wildfire.

To help you keep current with the Florida fire dangers access the site below for the latest conditions.

<http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Florida-Forest-Service/Wildland-Fire/Current-Fire-Conditions>