



Campfire Safety During Dry Weather

Enjoying the Outdoors

Enjoying the Ozark outdoors during the splendor of fall is a tradition for many. This often includes gigging on a cool evening, camping in the backcountry for a relaxing weekend, or setting up deer camp in a favorite spot. These activities offer an opportunity to rejuvenate and enjoy the fellowship of friends and family. Often, the most enjoyable and memorable experiences occur in the glow of a crackling campfire.

Recent low levels of precipitation and current dry conditions of the vegetation throughout Ozark National Scenic Riverways have contributed to an elevated danger for wildfires. As autumn progresses, the accumulation of leaf litter will increase this danger in the absence of significant rainfall. In conditions like these, a crackling campfire could become a hazardous wildfire unless it is properly attended and extinguished.

Campfire Safety

In order to have a safe and enjoyable autumn experience in the Ozarks and avoid a campfire becoming a wildfire, please follow these simple precautions:

- Clear the area around the campfire of all leaf litter and woody debris that could carry fire into nearby fuels.
- Keep a bucket of water or mineral soil nearby to douse flames in an emergency.
- Closely monitor campfires during windy periods to avoid fire or sparks escaping from your fire pit.
- Allow wood to burn completely to ash prior to extinguishing, if possible. Scrape sticks and logs to remove any embers.
- Completely extinguish all unattended fires with water or dirt and thoroughly stir the coals until everything is wet and cold to the touch. ***Falling leaves can ignite an abandoned campfire if all coals have not been properly extinguished.***



More Information

For more information on campfire safety or wildland fire, please contact the Fire Management Office at (573)323-8234. For information about Ozark National Scenic Riverways, please contact Park Headquarters at (573)323-4236.