ODNR Cautions Residents During Spring Wildfire Season

COLUMBUS, OH – The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) reminds Ohioans to take precautions while burning debris this spring and to know the state’s outdoor burning regulations. Ohio law states outdoor debris burning is prohibited from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. during March, April and May. Burning is limited in the spring due to the abundance of dry fuel on the ground. Winds can make a seemingly safe fire burn more intensely and escape control.

If a fire escapes control, immediately contact the local fire department. An escaped wildfire, even one burning in grass or weeds, is dangerous. Violators of Ohio’s burning regulations are subject to citations and fines. Residents should also check the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency’s regulations and consult with local fire officials about burning conditions.

The ODNR Division of Forestry offers these safety tips for burning debris outdoors:

- Use a 55-gallon drum with a weighted screen lid to provide an enclosed incinerator.
- Know current and future weather conditions, have fire suppression tools on hand and never leave a debris burn unattended.
- Be informed about state and local burning regulations.
- Consult the local fire department for additional information and safety considerations.
- Visit forestry.ohiodnr.gov and firewise.org for more information and tips on protecting a home and community.
- Remember: “Don’t burn during the day in March, April and May!”

Ohioans should also remember that food waste, dead animals and materials containing rubber, grease, asphalt or petroleum should never be burned.

The ODNR Division of Forestry works to promote the wise use and sustainable management of Ohio’s public and private woodlands. To learn more about Ohio’s woodlands, visit forestry.ohiodnr.gov.

ODNR ensures a balance between wise use and protection of our natural resources for the benefit of all. Visit the ODNR website at ohiodnr.gov.

– 30 –

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