

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY CALL 911

Dry summer weather leads to an increase in outdoor fire risk. Every Fire Department in Modoc County responds to numerous fires each summer which are the result of dry weather conditions and unsafe human practices.

Fire Departments should be called when fire is present at a home, business, field or an automobile. People should always dial 911 and request the fire department.

If the smell of gas is present in a home or other structure, the fire department should be called. The call should be made outside of the building, in case there is a gas leak. If gas is present, anything can cause it to ignite and explode. Again Call 911

The fire department often responds to emergency calls that are not fire related. Emergencies include vehicle accidents, construction accidents, hazardous material releases and medical aid. The quickest way to alert the Fire Department is through the 911 system.

In many instances of medical emergencies, the fire department is dispatched along with an ambulance. Firefighters have quick response times and most have an EMT, First Responder background.

911 should only be called in the case of an emergency. It is important that callers can provide an address, phone number and the type of emergency. If 911 is dialed accidentally, the caller should not hang up, but wait until dispatcher answers and explain it was a mistake. If callers hang up, police may be dispatched.

Below are ideas on surviving the summer fire season.

□ Barbecues:

Before lighting your barbecue, eliminate everything that may be hanging overhead and move the grill a safe distance away from trees, buildings, and other things that can burn.

□ Charcoal Grills:

Be sure to use starter fluids designed for charcoal barbecue grills and do not add fluid after the coals have been lit. Once they are cool, ashes and coals should always be placed in a metal container with a tight lid.

□ Gas Grills:

Make certain the hose connection is tight and check the hoses for leaks. Applying soapy water to the hoses will easily and safely reveal any leaks. As soon as your meal is done cooking, turn the grill and the fuel cylinder off.

□ Cigarettes:

Carelessly discarded cigarettes, whether tossed from car windows or dropped on the sidewalk, start many fires each summer. This habit can be very dangerous, especially if the weather has been dry. Safely dispose of cigarettes in ashtrays.

Arson/Dry Brush:

Arson is a crime that can happen at any time, any day of the year. Individuals can make a difference in preventing these fires. The following tips will help you prevent a fire from occurring around your home or business this summer.

□ Clean up wastepaper, long grass, weeds, litter, or anything that can burn, from around buildings.

□ Remove dead plants or bushes as soon as possible. Leave your indoor and outdoor lighting on during hours of darkness.

□ Consider installing devices that automatically turn on outdoor lights when they sense darkness or movement outside the home.

Downed Power Line/ Power Pole on Fire:

***DO NOT** touch downed power lines or power pole that are on fire. Stay at least 100 feet away from downed lines, as electricity can travel through the ground.*

Call 911 to report the locations of downed power lines and power pole that are on fire. Local Power Company, along with police and fire departments, will respond with urgency to these situations. Should a line fall on your car, stay inside the car until professional help arrives. If your vehicle catches fire, avoid making contact with the vehicle and the ground at the same time. Jump from the vehicle, landing with both feet together; this stance will improve the odds of electricity traveling through one foot and out the other instead of running throughout the rest of your body. Hop away until you are 100 feet from the vehicle. This is a safe distance from the downed power line or power pole.

*The City of Alturas Fire Department Office hours are from 8:00 am to 5:00pm Monday thru Friday. The City of Alturas Fire Department's telephone number **IS NOT** an emergency line. Our Firefighters are on Call 24/7. So please **CALL 911** if there is an emergency of any kind.*