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# ARKANSAS AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION  
ARKANSAS LIVESTOCK & POULTRY COMMISSION  
ARKANSAS STATE PLANT BOARD

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## Arkansas Residents Urged to Use Caution with Outdoor Burning

LITTLE ROCK, AR – Current and predicted weather forecasts suggest cool, dry air may remain for several weeks, which could create wildfire danger potential especially in areas already dry. Arkansas currently has four active Burn Bans in Faulkner, Conway, Cleburne and White Counties. Residents can stay updated on county Burn Bans (declared by County Judges) and Wildfire Danger at: [www.arkfireinfo.org](http://www.arkfireinfo.org).

Historically Arkansas undergoes two periods of higher than normal wildfire frequency February-April and August-October, due to windy conditions, low humidity, and dry vegetation. Heavy rain was received in August, which has delayed normal wildfire potential for this time of year until now. Wildfire crews across Arkansas remain heavily trained and prepared to respond at anytime.

This week is also the annual Prescribed Fire as a Management Tool Workshop at Camp Robinson, which involves 40 students in week-long classroom and outdoor exercises in using prescribed fire safely and efficiently as a forest management tool. Agencies including the AFC, Arkansas Game & Fish Commission, The Nature Conservancy, Arkansas State Parks, and representatives of forest industry and others require fire personnel to complete this course. Prescribed fire is routinely used as a management tool to create more wildfire-resistant landscapes, to improve wildlife habitat, for re-planting, and more.

Residents, forest landowners, farmers, and others should take the following precautions when burning: 1) Always check the weather before you burn; avoid burning when humidity is below 35%, or if the wind is blowing more than 5 mph, 2) Report your burn to the AFC Dispatch Center at 1-800-830-8015, or to your local fire department, 3) Develop a plan for your burn before you begin, including nearby water sources and a fire line of mineral soil or other fire-resistant material around your fire. Find a complete list of safety tips for prescribed burning, here:

[http://www.aad.arkansas.gov/Websites/aad/files/Content/5950774/Safe\\_Burning\\_Tips\\_for\\_Landowners\\_Fact\\_Sheet\\_2017.jpg](http://www.aad.arkansas.gov/Websites/aad/files/Content/5950774/Safe_Burning_Tips_for_Landowners_Fact_Sheet_2017.jpg)

Thus far in 2017, 18,002 acres have burned, in 898 Arkansas wildfires. This is a fairly consistent total for Arkansas compared to the wildfire behavior over the last four years, which has been low (19,045 acres in 2016, 14,653 in 2015, 16,687 in 2014, and 11,261 in 2013). The most recent high wildfire year in Arkansas was 2012, when 34,434 acres burned in 2,148 wildfires. The AFC Dispatch Center has recorded Arkansas wildfire data since 1937. See data here: <http://www.aad.arkansas.gov/wildfire-statistics>.

The AFC is an agency of the Arkansas Agriculture Department. The AAD is dedicated to the development and implementation of policies and programs for Arkansas agriculture and forestry to keep its farmers and ranchers competitive in national and international markets while ensuring safe food, fiber, and forest products for the citizens of the state and nation. Learn more at [aad.arkansas.gov](http://aad.arkansas.gov).

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*The Arkansas Agriculture Department offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

