



Marion County Board of County Commissioners

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TASK FORCE IMPLEMENTS VOLUNTARY BURN BAN

Immediate Release

MARION COUNTY, Fla. (July 6, 2011) –The Multi-agency Wildland Task Force met to discuss Marion County’s active Fourth of July weekend and weather conditions Tuesday morning. On Independence Day alone, 25 grass fires erupted as a result of dry conditions, backyard burning and fireworks in Marion County.

With weekend wildfire evacuations in Alachua County and dry conditions persisting, task force members implemented a voluntary burn ban for Marion County. Until further notice, firefighters are asking citizens to voluntarily delay any outside burning until Marion County receives significant rainfall over an extended period of time. Scattered showers will not decrease the wildfire threat.

While large portions of Marion County have received rainfall, there are a few dry areas that still have seen little to no rain. Due to dry conditions, the Wildland Task Force will continue to meet to monitor weather conditions and patterns over the next few months.

Although it is legal to burn yard debris, Wildland Task Force members are urging residents to delay backyard burning and take yard debris to Marion County’s landfill or recycling centers. If residents choose to burn, Marion County Fire Rescue recommends citizens abide by Marion County’s backyard burning guidelines to ensure their safety.

Meanwhile, firefighters urge citizens to follow these safety tips.

- Voluntarily delay any outside burning until Marion County receives significant rainfall over an extended period of time.
- Never leave a burn pile unattended and remember to fully extinguish all open burning.
- Take yard debris to Marion County’s landfill or recycling centers, a safer alternative to backyard burning. Citizens should call 352-671-8465 for more information.
- Immediately report arson or other suspicious activity to law enforcement.
- Use vehicle ashtrays instead of throwing cigarette butts out the window. Use caution when mowing or working with other equipment that could spark.

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“Meeting Needs by Exceeding Expectations”