



Marion County Board of County Commissioners

Fire Rescue

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Today's Date: Jan. 30, 2012

WILDLAND TASK FORCE SCHEDULED TO MEET

Immediate Release

- WHO:** The Marion County Multi-Agency Wildland Task Force, composed of representatives from Marion County Fire Rescue, Florida Forest Service, United States Forest Service, Dunnellon Fire Rescue, Ocala Fire Rescue, Marion County Emergency Management, Marion County Parks and Recreation, Florida State Parks, St. Johns Water Land Management and private land management groups.
- WHAT:** A meeting to ensure that agencies are informed of communication procedures, potential concerns, available resources and organizational structures with regard to the upcoming wildfire season.
- WHEN:** Monday, Feb. 6, 2012 ▪ 9 a.m.
- WHERE:** Marion County Fire Rescue Headquarters ▪ 2631 SE Third St., Ocala
- WHY:** Members of the Marion County Multi-Agency Wildland Task Force will meet for the second time this year to continue planning for the 2012 wildfire season.

At the first meeting on Jan. 10, Marion County's extremely dry conditions were of concern. As such, task force members have encouraged local residents to postpone backyard burning, if possible, and exercise caution with outdoor activities that could lead to wildfires. The group will continue to meet on a regular basis to discuss operational and response levels, as well as educational opportunities.

The Multi-Agency Wildland Task Force was formed following the 1998 wildfire season and meets frequently during peak wildfire dangers to ensure agencies stay informed to minimize the negative effects wildfires have on our community. This award-winning multi-agency task force has been nationally recognized for its commitment and serves as a model for other agencies across the state.

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