



Aviation, Forest Fire and
Emergency Services

Services d'urgence, d'aviation et de
lutte contre les feux de forêt

Don't let spring fever burn you up!

Think wildfires are just a problem in the summer? Think again. Spring is grass fire season and grass fires can be a deadly and destructive menace.

Winter snow and frost has a "curing" effect on grass and other fine fuels, such as leaves and small twigs. After the winter snow melts away, these cured fuels can ignite quickly. Once they are burning, grass fires can spread rapidly and uncontrollably endangering lives, property and natural surroundings.

Grass fires and other spring wildfires are very dangerous both to residents and to fire and other emergency responders. Most spring fires are caused by human actions, often from people burning yard waste and other debris on their property. **Don't be the reason behind a spring wildfire this year.**

For your spring clean-up, seek alternatives to burning whenever possible. Many municipalities offer curb side pick-up of yard waste on selected days during the spring. Another ecologically-friendly way to dispose of yard waste is by composting it.

Using alternatives to burning is not only safer; it is also beneficial to the environment and can help improve air quality in your local area.



Photo: Allen Woodliffe

If you must burn, follow the guidelines below to reduce your chances of causing a problem fire:

- Don't burn grass or brush piles when it's windy.
- Don't light your fire until two hours before sunset or later.
- Burn a safe distance from anything that could catch fire.
- Keep your fire small and have a shovel and water close at hand.
- Stay with the fire until it's out.

Remember, under the Forest Fires Prevention Act you can be held liable for the costs incurred to put out a wildfire caused by your burning.

**To report a wildfire in northern Ontario, call
310-FIRE (3473).**

For more information, visit:
ontario.ca/fireprevention.

