

# COMMITTED TO SAFETY



## *High Wildfire Danger Days*

### Basic Knowledge:

Certain weather conditions lead to increased wildfire danger in Ohio. The combination of **warm, dry (low humidity), and windy/gusty weather conditions** form an environment in which it is easy for wildfire to start and grow quickly. While each of these factors alone don't necessarily cause alarm, when two or all three are put together they may raise concern for increased wildfire danger. The weather factors can come together at any point throughout the year, but most common align in the Spring or Fall to cause high wildfire danger.

The National Weather Service may issue a Fire Weather Watch or Red Flag warning when weather conditions begin to reach very critical wildfire danger levels. These notices can be found at [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov)

**\*\*Wildfire Danger can be very high even if a Red Flag Watch or Warning is not issued\*\***

### Working Towards Safety:

Understanding when Ohio is experiencing high wildfire danger is key to working toward safety.

- **Warm days** – Warm, sunny days cause dead leaves and dormant grass to heat up, which drives the moisture out of it through evaporation, and makes the material more susceptible to ignition.
- **Dry conditions** – Period of low relative humidity also cause light vegetation like leaves and grass to become drier and more prone to ignition. Prolonged periods of drought can cause larger materials like logs to become very dry and available to burn
- **Windy / Gusty** – Windy conditions can easily cause embers to blow out of control and rapidly push flames across dry vegetation. Gusty, erratic winds can cause the direction of fire spread to change quickly, which is a big safety hazard.

To summarize, warm and dry conditions drive the moisture out of vegetation and make it more combustible. Windy conditions make it easy for a fire to escape control. Spring and Fall generally have the most high wildfire danger days in Ohio, but wildfire danger can become elevated anytime throughout the year if weather conditions are right.