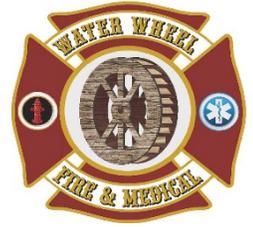




WATER WHEEL FIRE & MEDICAL DISTRICT

10603 N. Houston Mesa Road
Payson, Arizona 85541
928-474-3088 (office)
928-472-3392 (FAX)



Newsletter

March 29, 2019

Spring Time Yard Cleanup: Warm sunny days are drying things out quickly. Many of us are feeling the urge to get out in the yard and start those spring time cleanup chores. Trimming trees that are still dormant, cleaning up downed tree branches from winter storms, cleaning up fallen pine needles, etc. The brush pits that are scattered around northern Gila County will be opening in April. There are two pits located nearby our communities that are open to the public to receive this material. The Pine Pit, located on the Control road approximately ¾ mile east of Hwy 87 near Pine. The second is the Chase Pit located approximately 2 miles north of the Control Road on FS32, going toward Washington Park. The Pine Pit is generally open every weekend (weather permitting) and the Chase Pit is open the second Saturday and fourth Sunday of April thru October (weather permitting) from 10A to 2P. The Chase Pit will begin operations for this season on April 13th.

If you decide to burn your biomass material it is important to contact the Water Wheel Fire & Medical District administrative offices at 928-474-3088 to get a burn permit from the FD. If requested by the property owner, the Fire District will send someone out to the location of the proposed burn to inspect the area to see if it is safe to perform the activity. Please try to request your burn permit as early as possible in advance of your planned burning to ensure the FD is aware and to find out if there are any restrictions in effect. Another important safety concern is to ensure weather conditions, such as the wind, are taken into consideration. It may be perfectly calm in Whispering Pines, but in Bonita Creek the winds may be blowing 15-20 mph, not very conducive to doing any sort of outdoor burning. Also remember that even if you have a burn permit, you are ultimately responsible for the safety of the event. If the fire gets away from you and burns onto someone's property or burns into the forest, you can be held responsible for any and all of the costs to extinguish the fire as well as the cost of any property that is destroyed by the fire.

There are currently no restrictions to open fires in the forest or in the unincorporated parts of Gila County. However if the current drying trend continues without any significant precipitation, it would not take very long for the forest to dry to the point of having Fire Restrictions issued by the Forest Service. We all need to remember that if that were to happen, the No Open Burning Ordinance of Gila County goes into effect, so there is no open burning allowed on private property in the unincorporated parts of Gila County during Fire Restrictions.

Have a safe spring cleaning season and don't forget to call for your Burn Permits if you need one.

Thank you for your continued support.

Ron Sattelmaier – Fire Chief

Water Wheel Fire & Medical District