



## **CITY OF NEW SMYRNA BEACH**

Citizen Information Line: 386-424-2113 or 2114

May 9, 2006

### **POST-FIRE SAFETY TIPS**

New Smyrna Beach emergency officials are asking residents in the New Smyrna Beach area affected by the recent wildfires to heed these safety tips:

- Burned vegetation moved to new areas of growth may ignite new fires. Before removing any vegetation, mulch or digging in the affected areas, residents and landscape professionals should contact the NSB Emergency Operations Center at (386) 424-2113 or (386) 424-2114
- Be aware of trees that have burned at their bases or roots. They may look healthy but are still vulnerable to fall.
- All terrain vehicles are prohibited in the burn areas. Law enforcement personnel will be monitoring the areas.
- Residents are encouraged to report suspicious activity in the affected areas.
- Residents should monitor the affected areas around their homes in the upcoming weeks and report any new fire activity.

### **What to Do After a Wildfire\***

- **Use caution and exercise good judgment when re-entering a burned area.**
- **Avoid damaged or fallen power poles or lines, and downed wires. Immediately report electrical damage to authorities.**
- **Be careful around burned trees and power poles.**
- **Watch for ash pits and mark them for safety.**
- **If a power line or pole should fall next to you, leave the area.**
- **Be aware of additional wildlife and vermin that may have fled the wildlife area.**



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### **Returning to Your Home\***

- **If there is no power, check to make sure the main breaker is on.**
- **Inspect the roof immediately and extinguish any sparks or embers.**
- **For several hours afterward, recheck for smoke and sparks throughout the home, including the attic.**
- **Take precautions while cleaning your property. You may be exposed to potential health risks from hazardous materials.**
  - **Debris should be wetted down to minimize health impacts from breathing dust particles.**
  - **Use a two-strap dust particulate mask with nose clip and coveralls for the best minimal protection.**
  - **Wear leather gloves to protect hands from sharp objects while removing debris.**
  - **Wear rubber gloves when working with outhouse remnants, plumbing fixtures, and sewer piping.**
  - **Hazardous materials such as kitchen and bathroom cleaning products, paint, batteries, contaminated fuel, and damaged fuel containers need to be properly handled to avoid risk.**
- **If you have a propane tank system, contact a propane supplier, turn off valves on the system, and leave valves closed until the supplier inspects your system.**
- **If you have a heating oil tank system, contact a heating oil supplier for an inspection of your system before using.**
- **Visually check the stability of the trees.**
  - **Look for burns on the tree trunk.**
  - **Look for burnt roots by probing the ground with a rod around the base of the tree and several feet away from the base.**
  - **A scorched tree is one that has lost part or all of its leaves or needles.**

\*Source: <http://www.redcross.org/>