

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Leading Causes of Wildfire**

**FOR RELEASE April-October 2004**

2004 marks the 60<sup>th</sup> year Smokey has been delivering his wildfire prevention message. We keep Smokey busy every year with wildfires caused by human activity. This year let's help him on his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The leading causes of wildfires are escaped fires from debris burning and improper or faulty burn barrels. Other common causes are

- Unattended or improperly extinguished campfires from our outdoor recreation activities.
- Illegal or improperly used fireworks in a woodland setting.
- Power equipment with improper or faulty spark arrestors and exhaust systems. These include ATV's dirt bikes, chainsaws, and mowers.
- Careless use of smoking materials

We also need to be aware that heat from catalytic converters may cause fires when parked in areas of tall grass. Especially during periods of drought Converter's that are rusted out or have holes in them may cast off extremely hot pieces of converter material.

**SO LET'S BE CAREFUL OUT THERE!** Stay with your fire until it is dead out; cold to the touch. Leave the fireworks to the professionals and sit back and enjoy the show. Keep your power equipment and vehicles in good condition and inspect exhaust systems often. If Smokey can be vigilant for 60 years so can you.

For more information contact your local fire agency or visit [www.glffc.com](http://www.glffc.com)