

Hunters being urged to be fire safe

The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest is reminding people that human-caused wildfires are still a major concern heading into hunting season.

Here are tips for a wildfire-safe hunting experience:

Know before you go: When planning any outdoor adventure, people are encouraged to call ahead to check on location conditions and current restrictions.

Be careful with all fires: Whether a campfire, gas lantern, cook stove, barbecue, etc., all can quickly start fires. Be certain your campfire is completely out before you go to bed or leave the area. Pour water on the fire and douse the site thoroughly. Stir the campfire until there are no embers and the ashes are cold to the touch. Remember, if it is too hot to touch, it is too hot to leave.

Be careful with all motorized equipment: Parking vehicles on dry grass can ignite fires. Chain saws, generators and other machines with gas engines can also start fires.

Be on the lookout for fires: If you spot a wildfire, report it immediately by calling 911. Hunters may want to carry a shovel and water jug in their vehicle and put out any campfires they see left unattended.

Avoid burned areas: The land is still recovering from an extreme fire season. Burned areas can be hazardous in many ways, including falling trees, holes, loose rocks, etc. They also are not much fun to hunt. Give them a rest and let the land recover.