



## Fire Department

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## All City of Scottsdale Contractors and Construction Site Managers

The Scottsdale Fire Department is asking you to be proactive and help us address the threat associated with the upcoming wildfire season. This year has the potential to be a very active and dangerous fire season. The primary goal is to reduce both the number and severity of wildland fires in the McDowell Sonoran Preserve and developing interface areas of the community.

Over the past few years, the City of Scottsdale has experienced several fires that have started at local construction sites and extended into the adjacent open desert and preserve spaces. This is not acceptable. The Scottsdale Fire Department is providing a series of recommendations and guidelines that will help prevent and control wildfire incidents near the local construction sites.

Recommended checklist of safety items:

- Do not block fire hydrants or emergency access to the site with construction vehicles.
- Establish and maintain the building envelope as a clear zone. Thin vegetation and clear flammable materials and flash fuels (dried grasses and weeds) for an additional "buffer zone" of 20-30 feet from the building envelope. There is no need to clear natural live desert plants, just keep these areas maintained and clear of the annual dry flash fuels.
- Keep construction sites clear of excessive combustible and flammable materials.
- Restrict smoking while on the construction site, especially in the wildland interface areas.
- If a fire is suspected or discovered, immediately notify 911 for fire department response. Do this before attempting to investigate or before taking any direct firefighting action.
- Take special care to limit welding and metal cutting operations to cleared areas.
- Develop a "buffer zone or "defensible space" and remove all light (flash) fuels for an area of 10-15 feet from the edge of all driveways.
- Have working fire extinguishers and/or connected water hose lines available on all sites.

Contractors found negligent in maintaining a safe building environment in our high desert and wildland interface areas are responsible for damages via fines and/or criminal citations for the cost of providing fire protection response services and for property loss (City Ord. #4283, Section N124).

For more information or to report an unsafe construction site, call the City of Scottsdale's Fire & Life Safety Division at 480-312-1855. Thanks for your assistance with keeping Scottsdale a safe and beautiful community for our residents and visitors.