

DCNR Warns of Heightened Fall Wildfire Dangers

By DCNR
 HARRISBURG - With hunting and other outdoors activities increasing at a time when woodlands and brush are becoming increasingly dry, DCNR is urging all residents to guard against increased wildfire dangers in Pennsylvania's 17 million acres of forestlands. State officials note the current dry and unseasonably mild period comes at a time when wildfire dangers normally are high, and critical conditions can develop almost overnight in many forested areas of Pennsylvania.

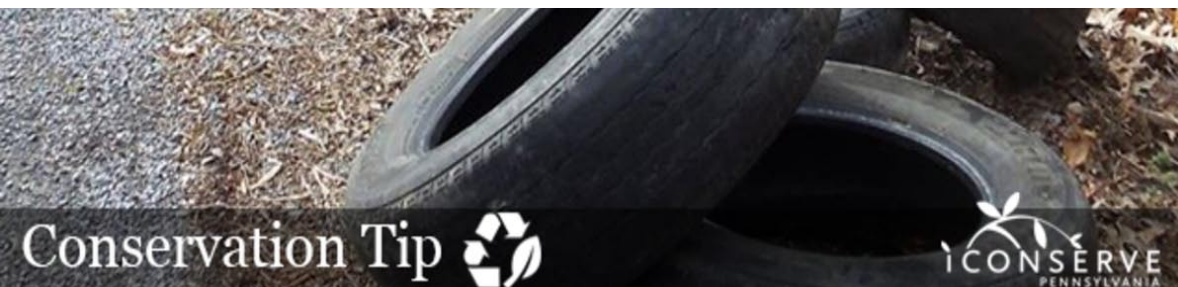


Rain is expected later this week throughout the state, but Bureau of Forestry officials note crews now are battling a wildfire that has scorched an estimated 600 acres on State Game Lands 221, Monroe County.

With several deer and small-game hunting seasons open, woodlands visitors are urged to be especially careful with smoking and fires amid dry vegetation. Property owners should always consider the weather and conditions when burning outdoors.

If it's windy or dry, burning should be postponed until conditions change. A hose, rake and shovel should be handy when burning outdoors, and any burnable materials cleared within 10 feet of a fire.

Details on wildfire prevention can be obtained at local forest districts and the Bureau of Forestry also maintains information on county burn bans in effect.



Dumping is a serious problem in many rural and forested areas of the state

especially in Pennsylvania state parks in forests. It is illegal and hazardous to the environment! It is important to know how to dispose of hazardous and solid waste properly. Many counties offer programs or drop off days to help recycle these materials -- often at no cost to their residents.

Learn about some of the environmental impacts and resources for recycling and disposal:

Household hazardous wastes are items such as old paint, pesticides, pool chemicals, drain cleaners, propane tanks, and more. if carelessly disposed of, they can create environmental and public health hazards. Learn about ways to recycle and properly dispose of household hazardous waste.

Used motor oil and tires. Used oil from one oil change can contaminate one million gallons of fresh water. Tires can leach harmful, carcinogenic chemicals into the environment. They also provide a breeding ground for mosquitos, which can carry many serious diseases that can affect humans and animals alike. Learn more about disposing motor oil. Learn more about properly disposing of tires.

Electronics such as computers, monitors, televisions, audio equipment, phones and more contain a variety of toxic and hazardous materials such as lead, mercury, beryllium, and brominated flame retardants which can be release into the air or seep into groundwater if not properly disposed of. Learn about electronics collection programs.

Check out the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's website for more recycling and disposal resources.

Window to File Unemployment Compensation Claims Extended

By Senator Scavella

PEN ARGYL - Many Pennsylvanians have experienced severe challenges in filing for and receiving Unemployment Compensation claims throughout the pandemic. In order to help more state residents who were unable to receive the money they were owed, the Department of Labor and Industry has temporarily extended its ability to backdate payments.

The temporary extension will allow individuals to file backdated claims for up to 52 weeks. Claimants seeking to file a backdated claim should email uchelp@pa.gov with the subject line "Back Date Request." The email should include the exact date they were separated from their employer and any relevant information about the separation for the additional weeks the claimant wishes to claim.

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