

# Wolf Administration Urges Caution to Prevent Wildfires

**By Terry Brady**  
**HARRISBURG, PA** – The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn called upon Pennsylvania residents to exercise wildfire prevention vigilance throughout a three-month period when major fires are most likely across the state's forests and brush lands.



that scorched more than 12,000 acres across the state.  
 "When state residents and forest visitors are careless with burning trash, campfires, and smoking, volunteer firefighters often pay the price, answering call after call in spring woodlands that are ripe for damaging, life-threatening wildfires," Dunn said. "Common sense limits the threat of wildfires."

"Yes, we have had seemingly non-stop rains recently across much of the state, but past springs have shown it just takes a few days of sun and wind to allow brush and forest fire danger to develop quickly," Dunn said. "A mere spark by a careless person can touch off a devastating forest blaze during dry periods when conditions enable wildfires to spread quickly. Most of the reported fires year after year are linked to people; people cause 98 percent of wildfires."

DCNR statistics show nearly 85 percent of Pennsylvania's wildfires occur in March, April, and May, before the greening of state woodlands and brushy areas. Named for rapid spread through dormant, dry vegetation, under windy conditions, wildfires often scorch 7,000 or more acres of state and private woodlands.

In 2017, Pennsylvania experienced a relatively mild fire season, with 531 reported wildfires affecting 1,644 acres. In 2016, however, Bureau of Forestry personnel and volunteer firefighters battled more than 850 reported field, brush, and forest fires

Anglers, campers, and other state forest visitors are reminded open fires are prohibited on state forestland from March 1 to May 25, and when the fire danger is listed as high, very high, or extreme, unless authorized by district foresters.

Communities in heavily wooded areas are urged to follow wildfire prevention and suppression methods of the Pennsylvania Firewise Community Program to safeguard life and property.

DCNR's Bureau of Forestry is responsible for prevention and suppression of wildfires on the 17 million acres of state and private woodlands and brush lands. The bureau maintains a fire-detection system, and works with fire wardens and volunteer fire departments to ensure they are trained in the latest advances in fire prevention and suppression.

For more information on Wildfire Prevention Week activities, contact local district foresters; call the Bureau of Forestry at (717) 787-2925; or visit [www.dcnr.pa.gov](http://www.dcnr.pa.gov) (select "Communities" then "Wildfire").

## PASmart Workforce Initiative

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As part of the first phase of the PASmart initiative, the Wolf administration is launching a new website dedicated to help people get information about pursuing an education and career in Pennsylvania at any stage of life.

The workforce development initiatives support the governor's goal to increase the number of workers with postsecondary training from 47 percent today to 60 percent by 2025.

While on the tour at New Century Careers, the governor also announced that the organization has been approved as one of the first recipients of the new Pennsylvania Manufacturing Training-to-Career Grant Program.

"This kind of program is incredibly important and that's why we're recognizing and rewarding New Century as one of the first recipients of our new Pennsylvania Manufacturing Training-to-Career Grants in the amount of \$150,000 to support its Manufacturing 2000 initiative."

In October 2017, Governor Wolf announced his Manufacturing PA initiative, which is made up of three new programs, including:

- The Pennsylvania Manufacturing Training-to-Career Grant program to help companies identify and train a skilled workforce while creating a workplace culture that enables the workforce to advance

and the company to grow. Grants are provided to Pennsylvania manufacturers that partner with technical and trade schools, Pennsylvania's community colleges, and those non-profit organizations that demonstrate both experience and expertise in the development and deployment of workforce development programs.

- The Pennsylvania Manufacturing Innovation Program leverages the internationally acclaimed science and engineering talent and discovery capacity of Pennsylvania's institutions of higher education to help ensure that the commonwealth remains an international leader in manufacturing. This includes a Manufacturing Fellows program, designed to support designated undergraduate and graduate student Fellows in both long- and short-term engagements with industry.

- Pennsylvania's Industrial Resource Centers are expanding their outreach to include small and medium-sized businesses, and will continue to provide technical, strategic, and market-based assistance to Pennsylvania's manufacturing sector.

New Century Careers is a Southwestern Pennsylvania workforce development organization with a dual client mission to support pre-employment and incumbent manufacturing workers as well as their current or future employers to help each set of clients advance economically through continuous workforce education and training.



### March 20

Portland Fire Co  
 Starts 7pm

### March 21

Bushkill Twp Fire Co  
 Doors 5pm  
 Starts 7pm

### March 23

Wind Gap Fire Co  
 Doors 5pm; Starts 6:45pm

### March 24

Immaculate Conception  
 Doors 11am;  
 Starts 1pm

### March 25

Bangor VFW Post 739  
 Doors 3:30pm;  
 Starts 6pm  
 Open to Public  
 Progressive Jackpot

St. Elizabeth Church  
 Starts 1pm

### March 26

Kunkletown Fire Co  
 Progressive  
 Jackpot - 7pm



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