

Safety tips during this dry season to reduce the chances of fire include:

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Do not discard cigarettes from moving vehicles - use ashtrays. Lit cigarettes do cause fires and can be disastrous in times of drought and high fire risk.

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When pulling off the side of the road, stay off of dry grass areas.

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Park vehicles so that the exhaust does not come in contact with dry grass, leaves or weeds.

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Avoid cooking outdoors during this drought season. If you do cook, never leave barbeque grills unattended.

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Place your grill on concrete or your driveway away from your home or any structures.

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If using charcoal or wood, make sure that the fire has been extinguished by soaking it with a garden hose before disposing of the coals.

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Cut back or remove any dry and dead landscaping plants or bushes around your home.

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Clear leaves from your roof and gutters; rake them away from the sides of your home.

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Move anything that will burn far away from structures, items like firewood, compost piles, brush piles, etc.

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Notify the electric company when dead trees or overhanging limbs endanger the electric wires.

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Practise fire safety with your family. If you see suspicious fire or smoke, call the fire department

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Plan escape routes away from your home by car and foot. Have a meeting place with your family.