



Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Spring Forest Fire Hazard Season Ends April 30 *Forestry Officials Continue to Urge Caution*

FRANKFORT, Ky. (April 29, 2011) – The spring forest fire hazard season in Kentucky officially ends on April 30. Despite the recent heavy rainfalls, 650 wildfires have burned more than 14,300 acres in the state since the first of the year. Most of these fires were due to arson; in fact, over 60 percent of wildfires in Kentucky in the last five years have been intentionally set. Citizens who have information or witnessed suspected arson activity are asked to call the nearest Kentucky Division of Forestry office, State Police post or the Target Arson Hotline at 1-800-27-ARSON.

Outdoor burning can also lead to wildfires. Before conducting any outdoor burning, citizens are advised to be familiar with the applicable regulations. Citizens should contact the Division for Air Quality, the Division of Waste Management, as well as the Division of Forestry and local fire departments to ensure that they are complying with all outdoor burning laws. Wildfires are less likely during the summer months but can still occur if conditions are dry.

For more information about fire hazard seasons, outdoor burning laws and safe burning practices, visit the Division of Forestry's Web site at forestry.ky.gov.

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Editor's note: The Division for Air Quality can be reached at 502-564-3999. The Kentucky Division of Waste Management can be reached at 502-564-6716. The Division of Forestry can be reached at 502-564-4496.