



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Alaska Regional Office  
Wildland Fire Management

National Park Service  
240 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Anchorage, AK 99501

907-644-3418 phone  
907-644-3809 fax

---

## National Park Service News Release

Release: May 2, 2011

Contact: Morgan Warthin, (907) 644.3418, [morgan\\_warthin@nps.gov](mailto:morgan_warthin@nps.gov)

### National Park Service Promotes Fire Prevention and Preparedness

**ANCHORAGE** — May 2-8 is Wildland Fire Prevention Week. In honor of the week, the National Park Service encourages the public to prepare for and prevent wildfires. It is not a matter of “if” wildfire will occur in the fire-prone ecosystem, but a matter of “where” and “when.” Individual and collective preparedness and prevention efforts create a safer Alaska for the public and firefighters.

Lightning-caused fires are part of a natural process that maintains healthy forests and wildlife habitat in Alaskan ecosystems. Though lightning-caused fires have the potential to threaten lives and property, it is unwanted human-caused fires that pose the most direct, but preventable, risk. Fires caused by human activities occur each year, most commonly in surrounding towns, villages, and communities where homes and businesses are located near undeveloped lands.

**Prepare!** Put in the time and effort before fires start burning to prepare your home, property, and community for a wildfire. The FireWise Alaska brochure is available at: <http://forestry.alaska.gov/pdfs/firewise09.pdf>. Contact a national park or stop by a visitor center for more information.

**Prevent!** Always use caution with fire. Recreational activities, based on the time of year and weather conditions, may lead to unintentional fires. Remember that it only takes a spark to start a fire.

**Be Aware!** Visit <http://www.nps.gov/akso/Fire/firehome.htm> for Alaska national park current fire information. Alaska national parks are also on Twitter @AlaskaNPS and Facebook at Alaska National Parks. The Alaska Interagency Coordination Center website <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/> has current statewide fire information, maps, statistics, and other helpful resources regarding wildfires in Alaska.

The interagency fire management community thanks you for preventing and preparing for wildfire.

Visit <http://www.nps.gov/akso/> for information about Alaska national parks.

-NPS-