

Are **YOU** doing the right thing the wrong way?



Are you doing the right thing the wrong way - for example, trying to eliminate the fire hazards around your home and in the process starting a wildland fire? Each year CDF responds to nearly 1,500 fires started by Californians using equipment the wrong way.

Whether working to create a defensible space around your home, just mowing the lawn, or pulling your dirt bike over to the side of the road, if you live in a wildland area you need to use all equipment responsibly. Lawnmowers, weed eaters, chainsaws, grinders, welders, tractors, and trimmers can all spark a wildland fire. Do your part, the right way, to keep your community fire safe.

Here's how to do it the **RIGHT WAY:**

- Do your clearance before 10:00 a.m. - **NOT IN THE HEAT OF THE DAY, OR WHEN THE WIND IS BLOWING!**
- Lawn mowers are designed to mow lawns. **NEVER** use lawn mowers in dry vegetation. Use a weed trimmer to cut down dry weeds and grass.
- Remove rocks in the area before you begin operating any equipment. A grass or weed hidden rock is enough to start a fire when struck by a metal blade.
- **In wildland areas**, spark arresters are required on all portable gasoline powered equipment. (Tractors, harvesters, chainsaws, weed eaters, and mowers).
- Keep the exhaust system, spark arresters and mower in proper working order and free of carbon buildup. Use the recommended grade of fuel and don't top off.
- Keep the engine free of oil and dust, and keep the mower free of flammable materials.
- **In wildland areas**, a permit may be required for grinding and welding operations. Be sure to have 10 feet of clearance, a 46" round point shovel, and a backpack water-type fire extinguisher ready to use.
- Hot exhaust pipes and mufflers can start fires you won't even see - until it's too late! Don't pull off into dry grass or brush.
- Keep a cell phone nearby and call 911 **IMMEDIATELY** in case of a fire.



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