



Lockwood Fire Protection District - May 2023 - Upcountry Newsletter

Spring has finally decided to show up and not a moment too soon in my opinion! I'm not sure I have ever been this tired of winter weather. With the arrival of Spring, it is time for us to prepare for summer and the inevitable fire season. With pile burning topping the list of chores that need to be done, I thought I would share a few tips on burning yard waste and other natural debris. When done properly this is a very effective way to get rid of unwanted vegetation, but it has to be done properly. For example, piling up a bunch of wet pine needles and spending the next several days trying to get them to burn, all the while smoking out your entire neighborhood, is **not** a proper way to burn.

Another common mistake is burning illegal debris. Please make sure what you are burning is natural vegetation from your yard, not construction materials or trash. Make sure your pile has good clearance and does not escape your control. Burning on a windy day is one of the most common ways piles escape control- if it is windy or predicted to be windy, do not burn! The vegetation you are burning should be dry and you should have a hot enough fire that it will consume what you are trying to burn. Start your pile by igniting a small portion of the pile and get a good fire going and then slowly add to it. The goal is to have a clean burning fire that will completely consume what you are trying to get rid of. It is best to use dry materials like kindling to get a starter fire going, not gasoline or other flammable liquids as they can cause injury and have other damaging consequences. Finally, make sure you have the proper permits and that it is a burn day before you ignite your pile. Please go to Lockwoodfire.org for more information on burning as well as other helpful links.

On **Saturday, May 20th**, the LFPD Auxiliary is hosting a Tri-tip Dinner and Bingo fundraising event at the Armory Hall in Volcano. Doors will open at 4:30pm, Dinner starts at 5pm and Bingo will commence at 6pm. There will be raffle prizes, Bingo prizes, a delicious tri-tip dinner and a no-host bar serving favorite local beer and wine. Come join us and support your Lockwood Fire Protection District firefighters!!! For details, please visit our website.

Happy Spring!!

Rob Withrow
Fire Chief, Lockwood Fire Protection District