



**DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**  
**Office of the Governor**

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Dear Colleagues,

Public education is a key part of preventing fires in Texas forests and grasslands. As we have seen in recent years, it is also crucial to educate Texans living in suburbs on the edges of our urban communities about fire safety – and what to do when wildfires threaten.

The Governor's Division of Emergency Management works closely with the Texas Forest Service, local fire departments, volunteer fire fighters and others in the emergency management community to respond when wildland fires break out. We need the help of local jurisdictions to assist with public awareness and public education programs to stop fires before they start.

Tossed cigarettes and hot catalytic converters on cars can ignite dry vegetation. Fires also are started when debris escapes from sites where burns are taking place. Educational efforts about the serious threat that wildfires pose to Texas forests, grasslands, farms, ranches and communities can go far to prevent incidents like these.

For materials you can use to develop your own local public education campaigns and to help boost awareness and preparedness, see the GDEM website at <[www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem)> and the Texas Forest Service website at <http://txforestservation.tamu.edu/>

Thank you for all you do,

  
Jack Colley  
Chief