



GOVERNOR'S DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

WILDFIRE AWARENESS: SMOKE ON THE ROAD? DON'T DRIVE INTO IT!

Texans have lost their lives during severe wildfire seasons because wildfire overtook them in their vehicles. The following safety tips have been provided by the Governor's Division of Emergency Management.

Never drive into dense smoke. You could become a fire fatality.

High winds may cause wildfires to spread rapidly and jump across natural barriers such as roads and even waterways. Strong winds can force smoke to stay low to the ground, obscuring roadways and traffic signs. Texas wildfires have been propelled by wind gusts as high as 60 mph.

During severe fire seasons, pay attention to TV and radio broadcasts **BEFORE** you travel. Be aware of fire and weather conditions along your route. Avoid traveling into areas where wildfire activity has been reported. Delaying your trip could save your life.

As you travel, monitor local radio and TV news broadcasts – and watch for highway signs providing information on fire danger.

Watch for traffic control personnel, fire fighters and law enforcement officers. Slow down and be prepared to stop if they signal you to do so.

If you encounter dense smoke – slow down as you prepare to stop and turn around. Activate your emergency flashers to warn vehicles behind you that you have decreased your speed or stopped. Do not turn around until you have checked for oncoming traffic and can turn safely.

For more information on fire danger and advisories, see the Texas Forest Service Web site at: <http://texasforests-service.tamu.edu>



For more information, contact GDEM Public Information at (512) 424-2138 or visit GDEM's Web site: www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem.