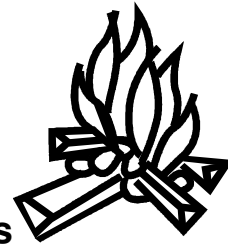


Alabama Forest Facts



There are over 20 million acres of timberland in Alabama which is the third most timberland acreage in the country. Most of the forests you see in Alabama are short leaf pine and oak-hickory forests. Approximately 667,000 acres of National Forest System are in the Alabama National Forests. There are four national forests, Bankhead, Conecuh, Talladega, and the Tuskegee National Forest. There were over four thousand wildfires in Alabama in 2007 and the causes ranged from smoking and camp fires to burning debris. On a national level, there were 85,705 wildfires in 2007.

Wildfire Safety Tips

Do Not build a fire at a site under dry or hazardous conditions.

- Find out if the campground has an existing fire ring or fire pit
- Building fires
 - At least 15 feet away from tent walls, shrubs, trees or other flammable objects
 - Also beware of low-hanging branches overhead
 - Clear a 10 foot diameter area around the site
 - Remove any grass, twigs, leaves and firewood
 - In a pit in the dirt, about a foot deep
 - Circle the pit with rocks
 - Fill the pit with small pieces of dry wood
- Never cut live trees or branches from live trees
- Keep a bucket of water and a shovel nearby
- Keep the fire small and under control
- Never leave your campfire unattended
- Allow the wood to burn completely to ash, if possible
- Pour lots of water on the fire and stir the campfire ashes and embers with a shovel
- Scrape the sticks and logs to remove any embers
- Stir and make sure everything is wet and they are cold to the touch
- If you do not have water, use dirt. Mix enough dirt or sand with the embers.
- **Do Not** bury the fire as the fire will continue to smolder and could catch roots on fire that will eventually get to the surface and start a wildfire

Most important is to follow all rules and regulations of the campground!

For more information on issues related to fire safety visit:

www.adph.org/injuryprevention, www.forestry.state.al.us, or www.nfpa.org.