



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?



Lawn mowers, 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.



**Orange County
Fire Authority**

www.ocfa.org/RSG

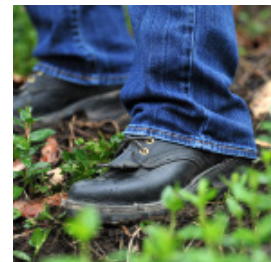


Each year, Californians start over 1,600 fires by using equipment the wrong way.

Whether working to create 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.

Here's how to use equipment the right way:

- Do all yard maintenance that requires a gas or electrical motor before 10 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 rock hidden in grass or weeds 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, including tractors, harvesters, chainsaws, weed eaters, mowers, motorcycles, and All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)
- 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 and spark shields may be required on equipment
- 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
- Have a water-type fire extinguisher ready to use.
- Keep a shovel close at hand.



For more information, please visit the OCFA website or call **(714) 573-6774** to schedule a wildfire home assessment.