

MOUNTAIN VALLEYS & FORESTS

SUMMER 2021 NEWSLETTER

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Fire on the Land

Prescribed burns can be used as a tool to help restore a native landscape, amongst many other uses!

Read more on page 02.



Fire on the Land

Controlled fires, or prescribed burns, are planned and intentionally ignited fires used to meet certain land management objectives. Fire can be used to create wildlife habitat, reduce the severity of unwanted wildfires by reducing fuel build-up, reduce invasive plants to restore native plant habitat, prepare a site for tree planting, replenish soil nutrients, and improve overall forest and rangeland health.

Enjoy this short video of footage of a prescribed burn in Madison County this spring!



Fire on the Land: Prescribed Burning in Western North Carolina

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=32aON8ISCrA>

For a more in depth look at the tools needed for private forest landowners to burn their own land, check out this new video from Forest Stewards Guild. **Learning about Burning: An Introduction to Prescribed Fire for NC Landowners** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FYFkkwE4P5k>

A word from the NC Forest Service Wildfire Mitigation Forester, Wesley Sketo:

"Increased collaboration among both federal and state government agencies with NGO's like TNC, RC&D and Forest Stewards Guild have led to an increased capacity for both mitigation outreach and boots on the ground for prescribed burning efforts. I hope to see that trend continue and undoubtedly will be showing dividends in reduction of losses of life and property in the future. This is vital as NC is seen as a destination of choice for domestic migration and continues to drive an increasing WUI footprint."

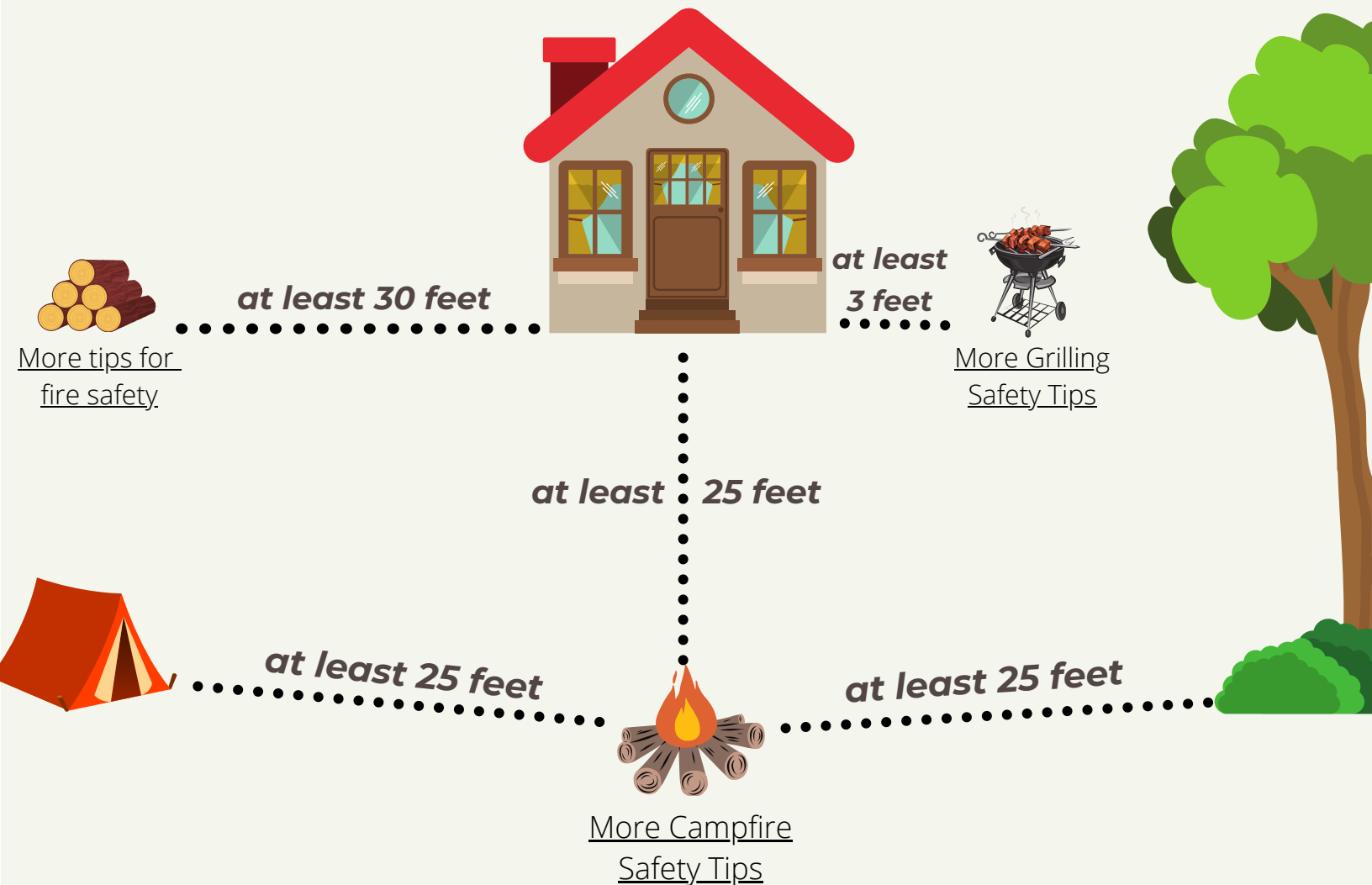


Summer Fire Safety Tips

Campfires are a favorite for many during the summer months.

Raise your hand for another round of s'mores!

As your family enjoys a fire this summer, either at camp or while grilling burgers at home, keep these tips on spacing in mind to avoid spreading the fire to the forest or your home!



Build campfires at least 25 feet away from tents, shrubs, structures and anything that can burn.

Never leave a fire unattended. Make sure the fire is completely out before leaving the area.

More information on creating defensible space around your home, community wildfire resilience, and other wildfire resources can be found on our website:

<https://www.mountainvalleysrcd.org/fw-resources>

Invasive Species Watch!!

An invasive species is an organism that causes ecological or economic harm in a new environment where it is not native.

Spotted Lanternfly



The spotted lanternfly, originating from Southeast Asia, has been reproducing quickly in Pennsylvania, spreading to nearby states. The invasive, plant-killing insects are known to lay their eggs on almost any surface, including vehicle exteriors. Their egg masses look like grayish putty, releasing a new generation in the spring. Adult lanternflies feast on more than 70 plant species and leave behind “honeydew” droppings, which attract wasps and other stinging insects and which breed a black, sooty mold that can significantly damage plants. This insect has the potential to become a major threat to our agriculture and forestry industries.

If you find one, **report it here!**

Find out more information here:

<http://info.ncagr.gov/blog/2021/05/20/look-out-for-the-spotted-lanternfly/>



Miscanthus sinensis, aka Chinese Silvergrass

Miscanthus, also known as pampas grass, maiden grass, Eulalia, and Chinese silvergrass, is a quickly spreading bunched grass that was introduced to the United States more than a century ago as an ornamental landscaping plant, originally from eastern Asia. Miscanthus is a high flammability plant that has the potential to fuel massive wildfires. “Fires from Miscanthus can get hot enough to scar and kill standing timber, reducing the value and area of forestland.” Fire will NOT kill Miscanthus. Learn to identify this plant and treat it to stop its spread.

Find out more information here:

https://www.ncforestservice.gov/contacts/pdf/Miscanthus_Info_Sheet_Madis_on_Co.pdf

Announcements

Upcoming Events

2021 Pollination Celebration event by Asheville GreenWorks, happening the month of June. Multiple events including zoom workshops. [Info here.](#)

Sustainable Land Retention Project Webinar - Taking Action to Manage Your Land. Wed, June 23 from 1-3pm. Registration required. [Info here.](#)

Hemlock Treatment Demo Day by Hemlock Restoration Initiative. Mon, June 28 from 10am-12pm. Registration required. [Info here.](#)

NC Prescribed Burn Council Annual Meeting on August 18, with a field day on August 19 in Morganton NC. [Info here.](#)

Forest Related Media

"Is Your Community Ready for Wildfire?" presentation from the McDowell Community Wildfire Network and McDowell County Ranger. [Link here.](#)

"Good Fire" from Hot and Dry Podcast. [Link here.](#)

"Wildfires, Global Climate Change, and Human Health" article from the New England Journal of Medicine. [Link here.](#)

"Wildland Fire and Climate Change: Impacts in the Southern United States" factsheet from the Southern Fire Exchange. [Link here.](#)

Do you live in McDowell County?



**McDowell Community
Wildfire Network**

We would like to help your community increase wildfire mitigation activities! **Free** home assessments and mitigation tool cache use. Cost-share assistance available for contracted work. [Find out more here.](#)

Mountain Valleys Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization established in 1974 to develop, improve, and conserve natural resources and to provide employment and other economic opportunities to the people of an eight-county area in Western North Carolina.

**Madison | Buncombe | Henderson | Transylvania
McDowell | Rutherford | Polk | Cleveland**



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