

## Wildfire Procedures

You are out riding the horse or mule and you came across a wildfire (a small one). What do you do? What can you do?

Remember, safety first! If you feel uncomfortable with the situation, get out of there and alert the authorities as soon as possible.

If you decide it is relatively safe, get out of the saddle and tie the animal(s) a short distance away, downwind of any smoke if possible.

Approach and size up the situation. Call it in if you have a cell phone with reception. Try to give your location as best you can with the name of the trail, location to lakes, trail junctions or other landmarks. Riding time from a trailhead can be useful as well. If you have a GPS get the coordinates. If you do not have a cell phone, send someone back to the trailhead to alert the authorities.

Approach the edges of the fire and begin removing fuels from the perimeter. (work a foot or more from the burning edge of the fire) DO NOT remove any burning material! (If it is a long log, extend your perimeter around it.) Be very careful that you do not pull branches that have been burning away from the fire. Leave them. Break or saw them off if possible and remove the unburned end. Try and get to bare soil. If you feel it is safe, go in and break or saw off low branches in the trees. If they haven't burned get them outside your perimeter.

Do not stamp on the flames as it will only send embers into adjoining fuels. Scraping with your feet or hands is the best method. Once at bare soil, throwing some on the flames will help to douse them.