



**American
Red Cross**

Eastern TX Panhandle
108 N Russell
Pampa, TX 79065
Etpredcross.org

Contact: Cindy Nickell
Phone: (806)273-6012
cnickell@etpredcross.org

Eastern Texas Panhandle Urges Caution

PAMPA, TX April 5, 2011— Dry conditions will continue for some time. The Eastern TX Panhandle Chapter of the American Red Cross urges everyone to be cautious with open flames. It only takes a spark for a fire to get started and then driven by winds to create a wildfire. Prepare your home against wildfire. Create a 30 to 100 ft safety zone around your home. Within this area here are a few steps to take to reduce potential exposure to flames and radiant heat.

- Rake leaves, dead limbs and twigs. Clear all flammable vegetation.
- Remove leaves and rubbish from under structures
- Remove dead branches that extend over the roof.
- Ask the power company to clear branches from power lines.
- Remove vines from the walls of the home.
- Mow grass regularly.
- Clear a 10 ft area around propane tanks and the barbecue. Place a screen over the grill.
- Regularly dispose of newspapers and rubbish at an approved site.
- Store gasoline, oily rags and other flammable materials in approved safety cans. Place cans in a safe location away from the base of buildings.
- Stack firewood at least 100 ft away from your home and clear all combustible material within 20ft.

“Take the steps now to prepare and listen for public service announcements if fire is threatening your area,” says Cindy Nickell, Emergency Service Director of the Red Cross. County officials will announce critical information about evacuations and where to go if necessary. Wildfire is a life-threatening event. Follow official’s directions for your safety. For more information contact your local fire dept, the Red Cross or go to redcross.org.

About the American Red Cross

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to survivors of disasters; supplies nearly half of the nation's blood; teaches lifesaving skills; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a charitable organization — not a government agency — and depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit www.redcross.org or join our blog at <http://blog.redcross.org>.