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## **Cigarettes contribute to fire risk**

Carelessly discarded cigarette butts are a problem and a threat when it comes to fire risk. Sarasota County Fire Chief Brian Gorski warns “There is a law against throwing cigarette butts and ashes outside of vehicles. You could be responsible for damages your carelessness may cause or deaths that may occur. Never throw or leave cigarettes, matches or other combustible materials on the ground.”

Residents are also reminded that Sarasota County also has an air quality ordinance that bans all outside burning.

As wildfires often begin unnoticed and spread quickly, residents can reduce risk to family, home and property by creating a family plan. Decide what to do and where to go before wildfires threatens.

Visit [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org) to obtain more information about wildfires. For more information about wildfires contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000.

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