



City of Madison Fire Department

News Release

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Grass Fires Keep Firefighters Busy

On Wednesday, April 15, 2009, City of Madison fire crews responded to three separate grass fires. The first fire occurred between Park Street and Walnut Street, along the bike path near Lake Mendota. Engine 1, Engine 4 and Brush Truck 1 responded at 3:51 PM and had the fire under control at 4:40 PM. No one was injured and no buildings were burned. The fire is under investigation.

At 4:51 PM, Engine 8 responded to a grass fire on N. Oak Street, where fire crews saw several children leaving the area. A Madison Police Officer gathered the children, and brought the children to the burned area where they spoke to the firefighters. It was determined that the children started the fire using lighter fluid and a cigarette lighter. No one was injured. The children will be referred to the City of Madison Children and Fire Program. The Children and Fire Program is a program which helps to prevent juvenile firesetting through education and intervention.

At 5:09 PM, Ladder 6 was dispatched to a grass fire in the Arboretum along Fish Hatchery Road, North of Carver Street. Access to the fire was poor, so additional vehicles from the City and Town of Madison assisted in fighting the fire. City of Madison Brush 1 along with Town of Madison Brush 4 and Town Engine 4 extinguished the fire by 5:42 PM, using water packs and grass fire brooms. No one was injured and no buildings or homes suffered any fire damage. This fire is under investigation.

Residents are warned to be careful this time of year. The ground is dry and winds can spread the fire very quickly. A total of 25 grass and brush fires were reported in March and April in the City of Madison. Fourteen of those fires burned in April alone.

The Madison General Ordinance (34.13 and 34.14) and the State Fire Code prohibit outdoor and open burning without a permit. Fire Codes do permit fires for cooking and approved outdoor fireplaces. The Fire Department **does not** permit the burning of yard waste, construction debris, brush, etc. if the Fire Department receives a complaint, they will respond and can, **at the discretion of the Fire Officer**, extinguish the fire for any violation of the following conditions, or, if they fire is creating a hazard or nuisance.

Information on Outdoor and Open Burning can be found on the City of Madison Fire Department web site at www.madisonfire.org.

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