

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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On 11-10-2022 at 1:08 PM, Tipp City Fire & Emergency Services (TCFES) responded to 300 Tipp Elizabeth Road at the Lostcreek Prairie Reserve. A campfire that was intentionally started near the Great Miami River spread to the adjacent wooded area. The current low fuel moisture levels played a pivotal role in this situation.

The fire was located in the woods between the prairie and the river. Access was the most difficult part of the entire event. It was a 30 minute delay to gain access to the area of origin of the fire due to terrain. Multiple grass trucks from all over Miami, Montgomery, and Clark Counties were utilized to contain the spread of the fire. The farmer that owns the field to the East provided assistance by using his machinery to let us gain access from the East to the West.

First water on the fire was within minutes upon arrival. The first access to the area of origin location was gained by a Grass 71. Multiple engines and tankers were also used to refill the Grass units as needed. Fire knocked down was reported at 2:40 PM. Situation contained was at 4:40 PM. The scene was secured at 6:08 PM.

Tipp City Electric Department arborists were used to extinguish standing dead trees that were too dangerous to cut down. The fire was deep seated and extending rapidly on our arrival. It took hours to overhaul and extinguish all spot fires. We all came together well to extinguish this fire.

West Milton, Bethel, Vandalia, Casstown, Laura, Ludlow Falls, Pleasant Hill, New Carlisle, Bethel-Clark, Fletcher, Troy, Christiansburg, Tipp City PD and all off duty TCFES personnel were requested to respond to the scene.

The fire spread is unintentional. The cause of the fire is intentional opening burning in a campfire. The leaves and vegetation are in a low humidity and extremely dry condition. The original fire spread to an estimated three acres.

No injuries were reported to any responders or citizens.

“The fire service implores all citizens to stop burning for any type of disposal purposes at this time. The conditions are not safe to start any type of fire that an individual cannot contain or have the appropriate safety measures in place.”

Please refer to the requirements set forth by the Ohio EPA and the local Regional Air Pollution Control Agency (RAPCA).

Open burning and the burning of Agricultural Waste is regulated in the State of Ohio by the Ohio EPA see: <https://epa.ohio.gov/divisions-and-offices/air-pollution-control/permitting/open-burning> and locally by the Regional Air Pollution Control Agency, see:

<https://www.rapca.org/programs/open-burning-permissions> Some more information on burning:

[file:///C:/Users/hallerc/Downloads/open%20burning%20terms%20and%20conditions%20\(2\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/hallerc/Downloads/open%20burning%20terms%20and%20conditions%20(2).pdf)

Agricultural waste is defined as wastes and plant matter such as tree trimmings, stumps, brush, weeds, leaves, grass, shrubbery and material from crop or livestock production. This includes fence posts and scrap lumber, but does not include buildings, land clearing waste, dead animals or animal waste.