



APRIL: CLEAR BURNABLES AWAY

You rode hard all winter. But now, the days have gotten longer and warmer and maybe it's time to put the ole sled to bed. After you stabilize the fuel, shoot in some grease and cover it with a tarp, think for a minute about how all the fuel and plastic of a snowmachine might affect your house if you had a fire nearby. Be wise about fire and take time to clean up and clear away all that burnable stuff that has stacked up near your place.

Pull that trailer away from the house. While you're at it, find a safer place for the two-cycle mix too. Got octane? Probably all your big toys have a fuel tank or two. Ask any rocket scientist about what might happen if a little grass fire crept up to a tarp over a tank next to a wooden building.

Another source of wildfire danger to your home is one you usually want to burn. That extra firewood and kindling under the deck or on

the porch won't exactly help either. Actually, a lot of the stuff you see poking out from under the snow could do with some spring-cleaning.

The idea is simple. Clear burnables away from your buildings. That includes fuel, vehicles, equipment, boats and all the other things that make the Peninsula a fun place to live. You owe it to yourself to use this gear safely and responsibly. If the woods catch fire, you don't want to give the fire a way to get close to your house.

If you want more common sense tips go to www.firewise.org or to www.firewisekp.com. Contact the Kenai Peninsula Firewise program at (907) 260 4262 or sharon.roesch@alaska.gov.

Remember. Firefighters can only help. It's your responsibility to prepare for fires.