KNOW BEFORE YOU MOW TO PREVENT FIRES

USE PROPER EQUIPMENT AND PROTOCOLS TO MAINTAIN WEEDS AND DRY GRASSES

Equipment-caused fires are one of the top three causes of wildfires in Sonoma County. In many cases, improper equipment was used to cut dry grasses in open fields. **Do not use a residential lawnmower to mow tall grass.**

DO YOUR PART TO AVOID SPARKING A WILDFIRE:

- Remove rocks in the area before operating any equipment – a rock hidden in grass or weeds may spark a fire when struck by a metal blade.
- Ensure spark arresters are in place on all portable gasoline-powered equipment including tractors, chain saws, weed eaters, mowers, brush cutters, etc.
- Keep the exhaust system, spark arresters, and mower in proper working order and free of carbon buildup.
- Keep the engine free of oil and dust and keep the mower free of flammable materials.
- Have a round-point shovel, cell phone to call 9-1-1, a back-pump water-type fire extinguisher, or water supply on hand and ready to use.
- Review One less Spark – One Less Wildfire educational information on ReadyForWildfire.org

A SAFETY REMINDER FROM

[Logos of various fire agencies]

Fire officials recommend that weed abatement and mowing of seasonal grasses occur before 10 a.m. with the proper equipment, and should be avoided altogether during excessively dry, hot, and windy days.