

Script – Broadcast – Don't get burned disposing of yard debris

INTRO

As summer quickly barrels on through, fall will be here before you know it. As pro football teams open their training camps this week, thoughts of warm bonfires and the chore of burning yard waste aren't far off. If you're thinking about having an outdoor fire, whether it's a backyard campfire or you're burning yard debris, safety is a must. So is having a plan in case of any potential burn injuries. Make sure to check with your local fire departments for rules and regulations before you do anything else.

(((SOS)))

Dr. Stathis (STAY-THIS) Poulakidas (POLE-UH-KEEDAS), medical director, OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center Burn Unit, Rockford, IL.

"The huge risk is you don't know the weather patterns, and as the weather changes, a fire you think you have under control becomes out of control quickly." (:10)

VO

If your clothes catch on fire, it's important to remember the fire safety technique – stop, drop and roll. Especially if you're alone. And remember to use your safety plan. Keep a bucket of water or running hose readily available to extinguish flames on your clothing and body. And always carry a cellphone to call 9-1-1 in an emergency.

(((SOS)))

Dr. Stathis (STAY-THIS) Poulakidas (POLE-UH-KEEDAS), medical director, OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center Burn Unit, Rockford, IL.

"That's going to minimize your burn. There are risks when you stop drop and roll, especially if you're on a farm and there's animal feces or dirt, it can put you at risk for wound infection. But we'd rather address that, instead of dealing with a much larger burn." (:17)

TAG

Rather than take a chance of injuring yourself, Dr. Poulakidas says there are other options to burning yard debris such as composting. Or move the debris to the curb on garbage day and let the professionals take it from there. The Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal states that fire pits should be at least 10 feet away from your home or anything flammable. This can vary from county to county. Make sure to check for any statewide burn ban that would make recreational fires temporarily illegal.

Before you burn yard debris or host a bonfire:

- Check local fire regulations and weather conditions.
- Never burn on windy days — sparks can travel fast and far.
- Clear a safe perimeter (at least 10-15 feet) around the fire site.
- Keep bonfires 25 feet away from structures.
- Keep water, shovels and fire extinguishers nearby.
- Don't use gasoline or flammable liquids (accelerants).
- Never leave a fire unattended and make sure it's completely out and cold to the touch.