

Wildland Fires

During dry periods, wildland or vegetation fires could occur here in the cities of Neenah and Menasha. If a heat source such as lightning or a discarded cigarette ignites dry vegetation, lives and property could be lost. Winds can spread fires very quickly and can carry hot embers through the air to other fuel sources.

NMFR personnel control wildland fires by applying water directly to the burning fuel, or creating a firebreak removing the unburned fuel from the area and letting the fire burn out. Wildland areas within Neenah and Menasha include:

- Heckrodt's Wetland Reserve, a 76-acre forested wetland, cattail marsh, open field, and upland forest.
- Wilderness Park, a 20-acre wetland area in Neenah with two-thirds of the park covered by crowded cattails.
- Arrowhead Park, 19-acres along Little Lake Butte des Morts.
- Grassy stretches along railroad tracks.

In order to control fires in these areas, firefighters may have to resort to other equipment than what is used for typical structural firefighting. Wildland areas have limited access to firetrucks and few, if any, fire hydrants to work with. However NMFR is equipped with a Kawasaki Mule ATV, which can carry a 65-gallon water tank. Firefighters may also use fire swatters, fire brooms, fire rakes, and wildland backpacks to put out small spot fires.

Tips for Wildland Fire Prevention:

- Remove dead and dry vegetation around your home
- Deposit cigarettes in proper containers
- Follow recreational fire rules
- Use caution when cooking outdoors

If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at 886-6200.