

## Target Shooting Can Cause Wildfires

As our summer days get longer, more people head outdoors to practice target shooting. But as northern Nevadans know, these hot summer months also increase the risk of wildfires. Increased temperatures along with highly flammable cheat grass and other Nevada native shrubs produce the ideal conditions for recreational shooters to unintentionally start wildfires. A small spark from target shooting can quickly ignite a large fire and endanger lives and property. In the last decade, thousands of acres and structures in northern Nevada have been lost to fires that were started by recreational shooting in the wildlands. If you plan to target shoot in uncongested areas this season, make sure you take the necessary precautions to prevent the chance of wildfire. Here are a few recommendations for shooting responsibly:

1. Bring water or a fire extinguisher. This may sound obvious, but shooters often fail to bring a fire extinguisher or enough water to put a fire out. A simple five gallon container of water available to you while shooting could help prevent the spread of fire, if one does start.
2. Choose locations with little vegetation, preferably dirt or gravel. Placing a target in grass or vegetation increases the risk of fire.
3. Bring soft targets with you; avoid shooting rocks, metal, or pressurized containers.
4. Don't shoot with steel core ammunition. Ammunition that contains steel core will spark when it hits hard surfaces. To avoid any chance of sparking, don't use steel ammo and avoid shooting in rocky areas.
5. Bring a shovel with you when are out in the wildland areas. You may use the shovel to remove vegetation from around the target. Disturbing the soil to bare ground will help prohibit the spread of fire should one start.
6. Binary exploding targets made of ammonium nitrate and aluminum powder are highly destructive and flammable. People using exploding targets are subject to federal and local penalties.
7. Park your vehicle away from dry grass. The hot undercarriage of a car or truck can easily create enough heat to ignite dry grass. One pound of cheat grass has the same combustibility as one gallon of gasoline.
8. Consider going to a target range for safety.
9. Make sure you are not shooting in a congested area. For more information go to:  
**<http://www.WashoeSheriff.com>**

**By taking these few precautions, you can greatly reduce the risk of starting a fire. If a wildfire does occur, call 9-1-1 immediately and remain safely nearby to guide firefighters to the fire.**