

A Message from the Mayor of Izumo City Concerning Recent Wildfires

To the people of Izumo City,

With the start of the new FY, we have seen wildfires occurring on a large scale across Japan. Izumo, too, has experienced a forest fire that required aerial fire fighting to extinguish. The practice of field burning frequently leads to fires that escalate out of control, causing wildfires.

While all citizens of Izumo are endeavoring to prevent fires, it is vital that we are all more cautious than ever in how we handle open fires. As such, I have compiled a list below of things to stay mindful of concerning open fires.

You, the people of Izumo, can prevent the vast majority of wildfires by remaining vigilant. The city will continue to do our part to protect human life, our property, and to prevent further wildfires.

**** THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND WHEN HANDLING OPEN FIRES ****

- Unapproved field burning, open fires, campfires, bonfires, etc. is illegal.
- When conditions are windy or dry, do not engage in field burning or make any campfires or bonfires.
- Do not start fires in areas with dry grass, leaves, or other foliage.
- When performing a controlled burn (i.e., a bonfire) prepare water to extinguish the fire in advance and do not leave the area while the fire is still burning. When you are finished, ensure that the fire is properly extinguished before leaving the area.
- Inform others nearby before you start a fire, never engage in field burning or make a bonfire alone.
- Always put out your cigarettes or smoking materials completely and never throw cigarette butts away in nature. Dispose of them properly.
- Do not play with fire or engage in any games involving fire. Do not allow your children, friends, or the people around you to play with fire.

April 10, 2025

Mayor of Izumo City, Toshiyuki Iitsuka