

## ***St. Lucie County Fire District News Release***

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### **St. Lucie County Fire District urges residents to “Keep Their Butts in the Car”**

*St. Lucie County, FL* – With the early start to the dry season, the St. Lucie County Fire District is urging residents to “Keep Their (cigarette) Butts in the Car” and do not toss them out onto grassy areas.

“The current drought index is 513, which is not particularly dry, but circumstances will only worsen without rain and the windy conditions will help fan any flames,” explained Fire Chief Ron Parrish. “We have had numerous minor brushfires over the last week or so, some of them in medians, which means a cigarette butt is the most likely culprit.”

There were xx brush fires from October xx through October xx.

The drought index range is zero to 800, with 800 being the driest conditions. During the dry season when the drought index reaches 550, the Fire District, along with the County and the Division of Forestry, considers actions such as a burn ban.