



# A Faulty Spark Arrester Can START A WILDFIRE!

Today everyone knows that the internal combustion engine is responsible for a great deal of the smog in our country. But not everyone knows that sparks from engines in all kinds of vehicles are also responsible for many wildfires.

- All internal combustion engines and equipment need a spark arrester when operated on public lands.
- Agricultural equipment, construction equipment, locomotives, motorcycles, cross-country vehicles, and chain saws require spark arresters if you use them near brush or grassland areas.
- Be sure you have the proper spark arrester that is mounted correctly and that it works properly.
- Always check your spark arrester before heading into a grassland area. If you're not sure about the condition of your spark arrester, take your equipment to your local dealer or mechanic.
- If you're not sure what kind of spark arrester is correct for your equipment, ask the local manufacture or contact your local office of the USDA Forest Service.

**Remember, a little extra care only takes a few minutes of your time. It could save a grassland.**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture maintains a spark arrester test facility at the Forest Service Equipment Development Center, 444 East Bonita Avenue, San Dimas, California 91773. About 500 spark arrester lists are maintained and published by the Center. Federal and local laws along with administrative requirements prescribe when and where arresters are required. During periods of very high or extreme fire danger, arresters meeting these standards will not give complete protection against exhaust spark fires. Additional measures, including shutdown of operations, may be required during such periods.

## Homeowner spark arrester check list:

- tractors
- lawn mowers
- wood splitters
- motor bikes
- generators
- compressors
- pumps
- other internal combustion engines