



## **DEER MOUNTAIN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

**6181 COUNTY ROAD 28, COTOPAXI, CO 81223**

### **FIREPLACE ASH DISPOSAL**

What is the cause of most wildfires?

An overwhelming number of brush, grass and forest fires (between 87 and 96 percent) are caused by people, according to statistics collected by the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) and the National Fire Incident Reporting System.

While about 20% of all such fires are intentionally set, most human-caused fires are accidental and related to careless disposal of hot embers, ash or cigarettes.

Regardless of the cause, local fire departments in the U.S. responded to an average of 356,800 such fires annually between 2004 and 2008. See the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the NIFC for more information on wildfire causes and frequency.

If possible, allow your ashes and coals to cool in place, where they were made, for several days. When it is time to dispose of the ashes, transfer them to a metal container with a lid and wet them down.

Keep the metal container outside your home and away from any combustibles until the refuse is hauled away.

DO NOT place any other combustibles in the metal container.

DO NOT use a combustible container, this means plastic or cardboard box.

DO NOT put a metal can on carpet, wood floor or in the grass. Remove to the outside with a secure lid.