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**March 28, 2018**

**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

## High Wind Safety Advice

**EL PASO, Texas** – The El Paso Fire Department would like to remind the public to avoid damage and potential injury by following basic safety guidelines during high wind conditions.

- Operating grills, fire pits, and other sources of fire should be avoided. High winds might pick up an ember and create a fire hazard. Immediately report any smoke and/or flames by calling 911.
- Avoid being outside as much as possible. However, if you must venture outside, look out for toppling trees and windblown debris. Wear sturdy glasses to protect your eyes.
- High winds can cause downed power lines. Always assume they are energized and potentially lethal. Downed cables can electrically charge puddles of water, chain-link fences and, other conductive sources. Stay away from the wires and call 911.
- Secure household items like outdoor furniture and trash/recycle bins that can cause bodily harm or property damage if catapulted by a wind gust. Remove any flammable items from outside your home.
- In case of a power outage, do not use devices designed for outdoor use to light, heat or cook inside your home. These pose a fire and carbon monoxide poisoning risk. LED flashlights are an inexpensive and safe alternative to stock and have in case of an emergency.
- When driving, exercise extreme care and anticipate flying debris entering the roadway. Avoid driving in dust storms when visibility reduced.
- High-profile vehicles can be pushed around by turbulent winds and should be driven slowly. Smaller vehicles should give these vehicles plenty of space.

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and visit our website at [epfire.org](http://epfire.org) to stay updated on EPFD news and safety advice.

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*Promote Transparent and Consistent Communication Among All Members of the Community*