The continued drought, and several hard freezes that killed grasses and other woodland brush, have significantly increased the occurrence of wildfires throughout Florida.

Forestry officials say that about 25 percent of all wildfires are intentionally set, making arson the leading cause of wildfire in Florida.

Arson is a crime that can burn us all. Citizens are encouraged to report suspicious activity that may be the work of an arsonist by calling the state’s Arson Alert Hotline at 1-800-342-5869, or by contacting the local office of the Florida Forest Service. Rewards up to $10,000 are paid for information leading to the arrest of an arsonist. Callers may remain anonymous.