

ARMINTROUT FIRE LOOKOUT TOWER



In 1934, William L. and Harriet B. Armintrout of Union Township, in Pike County, Ohio, sold .35 acres to the State of Ohio for the sum of \$1 for the express purpose of erecting a forest fire lookout tower. In 1933, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps in Ohio were placed under the direction of Ohio's State Forester. Their accomplishments in the state included the construction of 11 steel fire lookout towers in 18 months. The Armintrout tower was one of those towers.

Between 1924 and 1970, 39 wildfire lookout towers were built to spot blazes on state, federal and private lands in Ohio. Today, surveillance from fire lookout towers is a thing of the past. Wildfire detection from aircraft began in the 1940s, and Ohio's fire lookout towers were phased out until the closure of the last tower in 1978. Today, cellphone calls from the public have eliminated the need for lookout towers and aerial detection.

The ownership of the Armintrout Tower was transferred to the Pike County Public Service Trust for civil defense purposes in 1978. By 2016, the tower had long outlived its usefulness for that purpose. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) re-acquired the tower to move it to the Ohio State Fairgrounds at the ODNR Natural Resources Park.

The tower was moved from the site where it stood since 1934 to the Ohio State Fairgrounds by Geiger Brothers LLC in 2016. The metal legs of the tower were sandblasted, acid dipped and re-galvanized. The wood for the landings and stair treads was grown on and sawn on Ohio's state forests and is "green certified" since Ohio's state forests are certified by the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI).

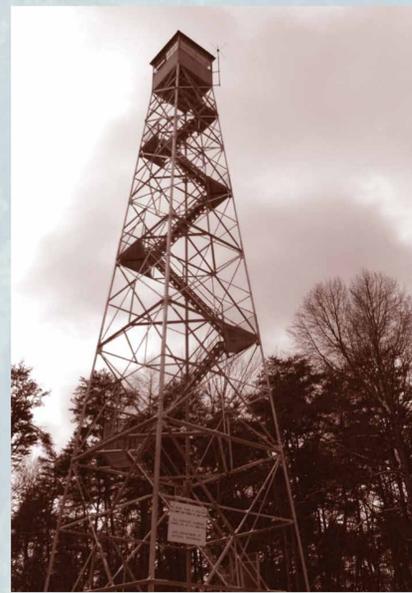
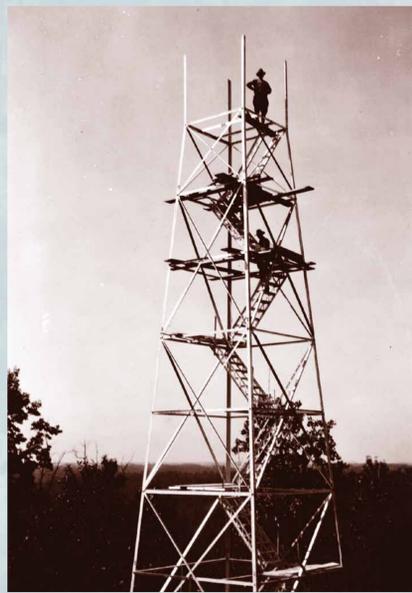
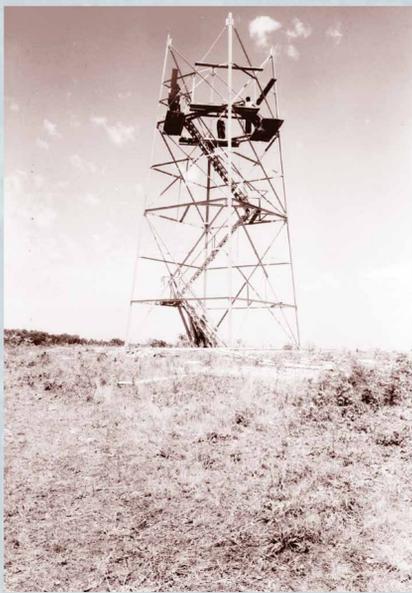
The cab was completely refinished and new glass was installed by state forest craftsmen at Scioto Trail State Forest.



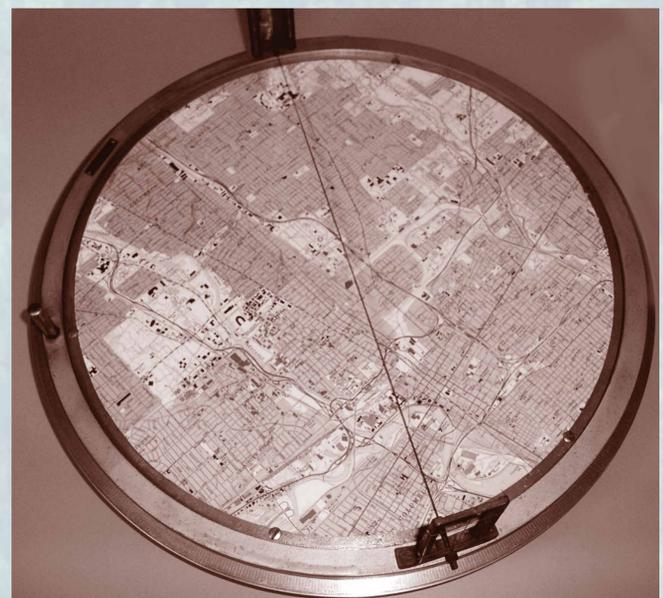
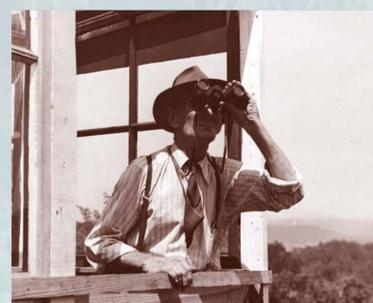
HISTORY OF FIRE LOOKOUT TOWERS IN OHIO

The first fire lookout tower in Ohio was built in 1924 by the Division of Forestry (DOF) personnel who built the first seven fire lookout towers in the state. In 1933, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was started as part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal. The CCC, working under the direction of the state forester, helped build 11 fire lookout towers in 18 months during 1933-1934. Additionally, they helped the DOF build six more towers in Ohio prior to the CCC program ending in 1942. With the

acquisition of the Wayne National Forest in the late 1930s and early 1940s, the U.S. Forest Service also began building fire lookout towers in Ohio. In 1970, the last two fire lookout towers were built in Ohio. In all, there were 39 fire lookout towers built in Ohio between 1924 and 1970. The age of fire lookout tower use for wildfire detection in Ohio ended in 1978 when Marian Sanders descended from the lookout tower at Pike State Forest for the last time in the fall of that year.



The *lookout* - who sat in the fire lookout tower - could be male or female. The lookout's job was to watch for smoke indicating a fire. Lookouts used a form of alidade known as an Osbourne Fire Finder to help them locate the site of the fire and radio its location to a ground crew for suppression. The work day for a lookout was long and often a bit boring. They generally started at dawn and worked until dusk. They usually carried their lunch pail and coffee thermos with them, but sometimes a family member would bring them a hot meal. Mornings and evenings in the spring and fall during fire season in Ohio can be cold and damp. Most of the fire lookout towers in Ohio had a propane tank mounted to the side of the tower to operate a propane heater. Some of the towers even had a small propane stove for heating meals or coffee. Generally, there was an outhouse located near the base of the tower used for its intended purpose by the lookout and the occasional visitor. Reading books and magazines and listening to the radio were common pastimes for a lookout.



HELPING OHIO'S RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Forestry provides leadership in protecting Ohio's private and public forest lands from wildfire. The ODNR Division of Forestry partners with rural fire departments to accomplish this mission, and provides support to Ohio's rural fire departments through wildfire suppression, prevention, grant opportunities and firefighter training.

The division also facilitates the transfer of federal surplus vehicles and equipment to rural fire departments through the Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) program. Fire departments refurbish, convert and equip the vehicles to serve in fire and emergency response. The FEPP program began in 1949. Through this program, the ODNR Division of Forestry has transferred hundreds of pieces of equipment valued at millions of dollars to rural fire departments in Ohio.

UPPER TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT, LAWRENCE COUNTY



BEALLSVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT, MONROE COUNTY



CARROLL COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT



COLERAIN TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT, ROSS COUNTY



ADAMS COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT



WILKESVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT, VINTON COUNTY



PEBBLE TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT, PIKE COUNTY



WAYNE TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT, MUSKINGUM COUNTY

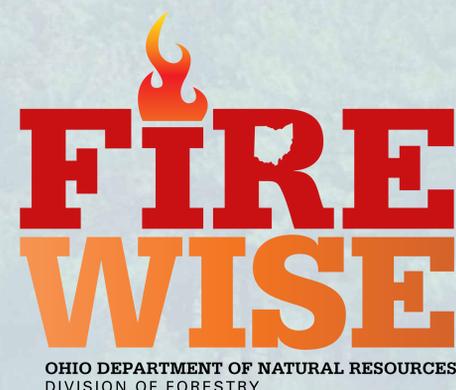


WILDFIRE: Be Prepared

Most of the wildfires in Ohio can be attributed to human error and carelessness. These fires may threaten, damage or destroy nearby homes and buildings, putting people at significant risk. Local fire departments in Ohio put forth tremendous effort to prevent wildfires and protect populated areas, but there are certain actions that people can take to increase wildfire safety around their homes.

- Create DEFENSIBLE SPACE around your home.
- IDENTIFY your home with visible, clear street names and numbers. This practice helps responders find your home more quickly.
- Provide good ACCESS. Ensure that your driveway is at least 12 feet wide and has vertical clearance of 15 feet. Provide an adequate turnaround area. This allows rescue vehicles to approach your home safely.

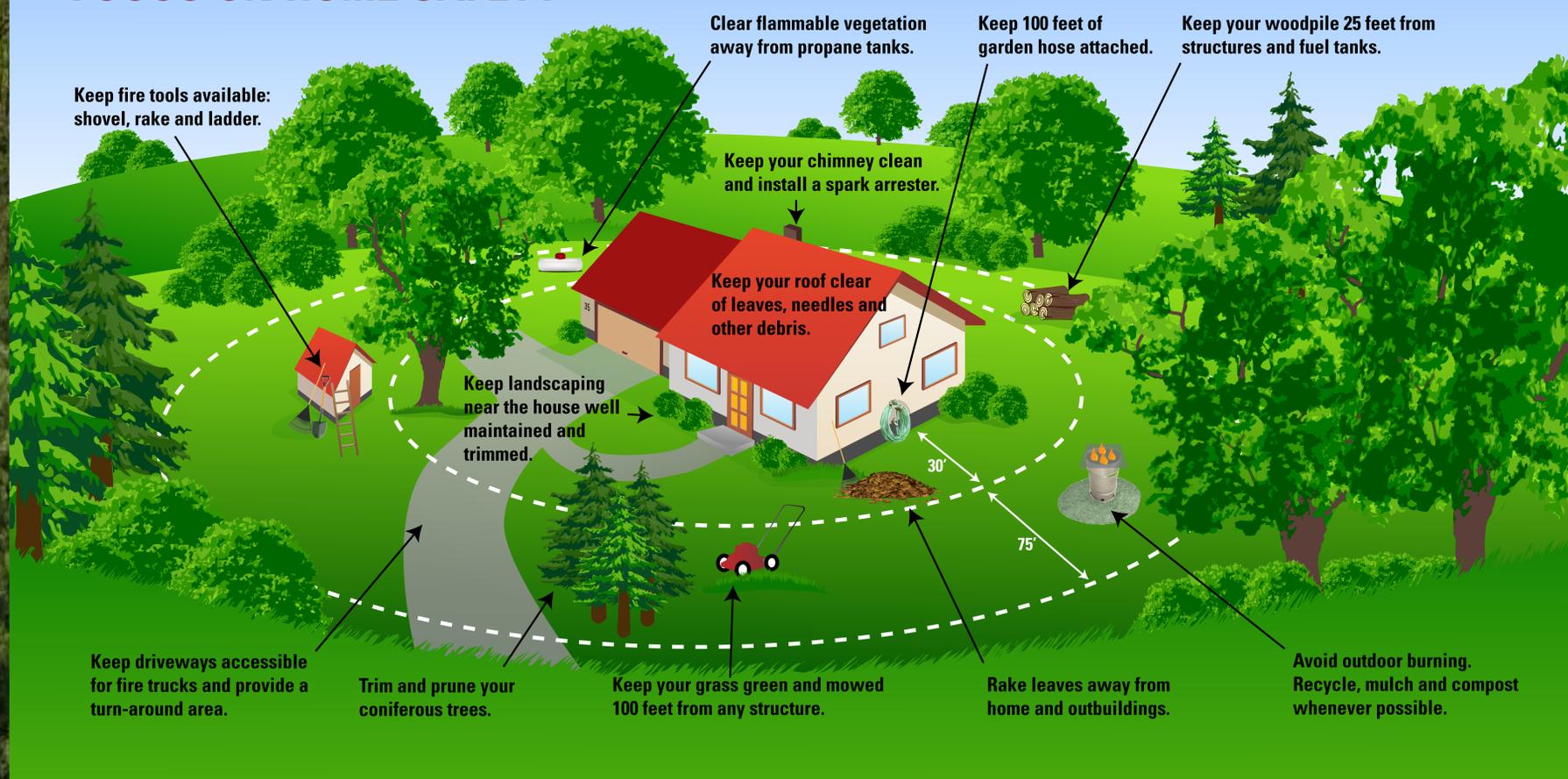
- The ODNR Division of Forestry prohibits outdoor open burning in the months of March, April, May, October, and November between 6:00 am and 6:00 pm. This ban includes burning of yard waste, trash, and debris, even in a proper burn barrel.



- If you choose to burn debris and yard waste during appropriate hours, USE A BURN BARREL. Be sure to cover the top with wire mesh, and never leave burning material unattended. Be sure the area around the burn barrel is clear of flammable materials. Observe all laws regarding open burning that apply to you, and never burn on windy days.
- UNDERSTAND that you can make a difference in home safety concerning wildfires.

BE RESPONSIBLE, BE SAFE, BE FIREWISE!

FOCUS ON HOME SAFETY



The local fire department appreciates your help in taking responsible steps toward home and wildfire safety. Your Firewise efforts make their job easier and less dangerous. Please help us help you!

WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING

Fighting Wildfires in Ohio and Across the Country

OHIO WILDFIRES

Each year, Ohio records hundreds of wildfires that burn thousands of acres. Local fire departments and Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Forestry personnel are the first responders to these fires. Equipment such as chainsaws, leaf blowers, rakes and shovels are used to create control lines around the fires to stop the spread. Occasionally, heavy equipment such as bulldozers and helicopters are required to contain large, intense blazes.



WESTERN WILDFIRES

In addition to fighting wildfires in Ohio, the ODNR Division of Forestry has participated in the national mobilization of wildland firefighting resources since 1986. Fire engines, 20-person crews and individuals with specialized qualifications have been dispatched to many states across the country to assist with wildfire suppression.



FIREFIGHTER SAFETY

Safety is the top priority in wildland firefighting. Firefighters establish and utilize escape routes, safety zones and good communications in every fire incident. Wildland firefighters wear personal protective equipment (PPE), including fire resistant clothing, helmet, eye protection, gloves, leather boots and a fire shelter to shield them from danger.



The Civilian Conservation Corps and the ODNR Division of Civilian Conservation

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was developed in 1933 during the desperate days of the Great Depression, and it ended in 1942 at the beginning of WWII. Nationally, the War Department ran the CCC, with 4,000 camps nationwide. In Ohio, the organization operated 109 camps. Of those, 26 camps, with roughly 200 corpsmen each, were operated under the direction of the state forester. Fourteen of the camps were located in state forests and forest parks. In 1935, 12 of the 26 camps were transferred to the Soil Conservation Service.

These various CCC camps worked to develop America's and Ohio's state forests, parks, bridges, dams, fire lookout towers, roads and lakes. A modern-day CCC was established in Ohio in 1977, following the same principles as the original CCC program. Administered by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), young adults were trained to accomplish quality conservation-based work and community projects. The program was discontinued in 2003.

Many of the projects built by the CCC are still enjoyed today at Ohio's state forests, parks and public lands. One such project included the fire lookout tower network. The system was originally constructed to provide lookout locations to monitor fires in the area. Fire lookouts would keep an eye out for smoke plumes, sure signs of a fire.

There were 3,116 fire lookout towers constructed nationwide and 39 towers in Ohio. Eventually, Ohio's fire lookout tower network was phased out in the 1970s due to the use of airplanes, the establishment of local fire departments and the availability of telephones to report fires.

This tower was erected by the CCC in 1934 in Pike County, Ohio, on Armintrout Road overlooking Pike County and the Piketon Uranium Plant. It is called the Armintrout Tower. This 80-foot tower stood at its original location from 1934 to 2016. Crews dismantled the tower, shortened it to 60 feet (from the ground to the bottom of the cab) and reassembled it here on the Ohio State Fairgrounds in the ODNR Natural Resources Park in 2016.

This tower stands as a testament to the young men and women of the Ohio CCC and the hard work they accomplished during their service. Citizens of Ohio can use this opportunity to learn about, remember and pay respect to these individuals, without whom Ohio's natural resources would not be the beautiful, natural wonders they are today.

This fire lookout tower is in remembrance to all former CCC members everywhere. Thank you for all your hard work!

