

Passers-by overreact to controlled burns

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Representatives of the fire companies that serve Amity Township told township supervisors that false alarms for controlled burns are a relatively common problem.

Controlled burns to dispose of leaves or brush are legal but they are often reported as fires by passers-by.

"That's one of the biggest issues that we face," Amity Fire Company Chief Michael Zomolsky said Wednesday. "With almost everybody having a cellphone, we get calls that we're required to answer and when we arrive on scene, it's being tended to responsibly so in essence it's a waste of time and resources. The cost of sending out a piece of equipment is pretty substantial."

Officers of the Amity and Monarch fire companies estimate that they answer 20 to 25 calls a year that are controlled-burn situations.

"That's just the way it is," Zomolsky said.

- By Dan Andrews
