

Date: November, 2021

### PRIOR TO INCIDENT:

- Restaurant(s) were built in accordance with the “Design it Right, Building it Right Site Plan Guide” V5.0 Sep 2019
- Drive-thru and carry-out operations channels open

### INCIDENT FACTS:

- Reports of customers discarding cigarette butts/embers to ground while walking in to restaurant or while in the Drive Thru.
- Landscapes of impacted restaurants generally consist of various trees/bushes w/ a majority having a wood mulch ground cover
- Fires progress through incipient stages quickly in drier conditions

### CAUSAL FACTORS:

- Data suggests customers are discarding hot cigarettes/embers at point of entry into the restaurant or while waiting in the drive thru into landscape areas consisting of wood mulch and plants/trees
- Environmental condition were such that ignition of combustible materials was easily achieved

### Designing It Right, Building it Right Standards

- Landscaping sets the stage to compliment and draw attention
- It helps to lighten the monotony of large expanses of parking areas and to soften the harshness of concrete, brick and asphalt.
- Avoid the use of removable material for decorative ground cover such as stone, gravel or rock in areas of high-security or questionable social environment.
- The following guidelines highlight McDonald’s minimum landscape approach and should be reviewed with the region’s local landscape consultant to insure compliance with local ordinances and zoning requirements.



### REAPPLICATION: *Preventative Actions That OTHER RESTAURANTS Should Consider To Prevent Similar Incident(s)*

- Use non-combustible building/landscape materials around the exterior walls of the restaurant such as rocks, pavers, gravel and keep combustible landscape materials ~18” away from exterior walls
- Ensure that mulched and dense vegetation areas are covered by landscape sprinkler systems
- Elevate precautions when environmental conditions (e.g. drought, dry periods) exist
- Consider adding cigarette disposal receptacles to entry points of restaurant and drive-thru
- The use of fire-retardant spray on wood mulched areas is not a good solution as it is temporary and will require periodic re-applications.

Exterior Damage Relative to Drive-Thru Ordering



Damage Close-Up



Exterior Nook Area – Wood Mulch Ground Covering