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***For Immediate Release***

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## **Fire Danger Remains EXTREME in Missoula County**

### **Stage II Fire Restrictions Continue in Western Montana**

**August 14, 2017, 9:00 PM- Missoula, Montana** – Interagency wildland fire officials with the Missoula County Fire Protection Association (MCFPA) want to update folks in western Montana that Stage II fire restrictions remain necessary. Even though many communities received wetting rains on Sunday associated with the passage of a cold front, the amount and duration of the rain was not enough to significantly alter conditions on the ground. Fuel moistures remain historically low, and it will take sustained precipitation to raise them again to safe levels. The near-term forecast calls for a return to high temperatures and west winds.

**In areas where Stage II restrictions are in force, neither campfires nor charcoal fires are allowed.** Nighttime and early morning patrols at area campgrounds and popular recreation sites have revealed that the vast majority of campers have followed the restrictions and have not had campfires or charcoal fires. Firefighters in the area want to extend thanks to those who have paid attention to restrictions. However, since Stage II was implemented on July 27, nearly 30 campfires or charcoal fires have been discovered in areas where restrictions are in effect.

#### Where can I cook with charcoal?

Charcoal grills are allowed on private property within city limits. Charcoal fires are not allowed on all open space and conservation land located within the city limits of Missoula.

#### What is allowed during Stage I and Stage II?

LPG stoves, or other types of **stoves that can be turned on and off are allowed.** Make sure they are only used in areas cleared of flammable material a minimum of three feet from the stove.

Keep up to date on restrictions and find restrictions maps at <https://firerestrictions.us/mt>