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**For Immediate Release Contact: Jordan Koppen 210-1160**

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## **Fire Danger Moved to “High,” as of July 16<sup>th</sup> Outdoor Burning Remains CLOSED**

**July 16, 2018 12:00 pm, Missoula, Montana** – Fire officials with the Missoula County Fire Protection Association (MCFPA) have moved the fire danger rating to HIGH starting today, Monday July 16<sup>th</sup>.

Hot and dry conditions remain in the forecast consecutively throughout the week and weekend with no relief in sight. Grasses and vegetation are rapidly drying out. Fire agencies responded to numerous debris burns this past week, one that burned almost 2 acres. Again, fire officials want to remind the public that open burning has been closed as of July 4<sup>th</sup> and will remain closed for the rest of the fire season.

Residents need to know that our wildland firefighters face a long, arduous fire season even without having to respond to human-caused fires. Everyone needs to take special care when engaged in activities that could ignite a wildfire. Remember: one less spark, one less wildfire. Because of HIGH fire danger, we are urging the public to be extremely cautious with ignition sources. While campfires are still allowed, everyone should be sure campfires are cold to the touch before leaving them unattended. Please do your part to ensure there is One Less Spark as a result of your outdoor activities in the heat of the afternoon:

- Mowing tall grass where the blade can strike a rock
- Safety chains sparking on the road while towing a trailer
- Failure to have a spark arrester in your equipment's exhaust system in grassy areas

Find more on the web, at: [www.mcfpa.org](http://www.mcfpa.org) and like us on Facebook for instant updates throughout fire season. Find information on the One Less Spark campaign at Keep Montana Green, [www.keeptgreen.org](http://www.keeptgreen.org)

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