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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Fire Danger **VERY HIGH** in Missoula County

### Debris Burning by Permit Remains **CLOSED**

**July 23rd, 2018, 2:00 PM- Missoula, Montana** – Interagency wildland fire officials with the Missoula County Fire Protection Association (MCFPA) are reporting nearly 20 human-caused fires last week alone while fire danger indices have reached **VERY HIGH**.

After a wet spring, fuels have dried to the point that fires will spread quickly. Last week, unattended campfires, illegal debris burning, operating internal combustion engines around cured grasses, and tow chains dragging on highway surfaces have ignited wildfires.

Here how we can all prevent the most common human-caused fires:

\*Keep campfires small, and never leave them unattended. Drown, mix, and stir in water until the campfire is cold to the touch before leaving your campsite.

\*Outdoor debris burning by permit has been closed for the season. Debris burning in Mineral, Missoula, Powell, Ravalli, or Sanders is not allowed.

\*Running internal combustion engines in areas of tall, cured grass could start a wildfire. Be vigilant during these operations, and avoid doing such things on windy days or in the heat of the day. Have a water supply or fire extinguisher, leather gloves, and a hand tool at the ready.

\*Make sure trailers are well maintained and that you are not dragging the safety chains.

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 spark a wildfire. Remember: one less spark, one less wildfire.

Even though wildfire agencies have not implemented Stage 1 fire restrictions at this time, everyone is encouraged to bookmark [www.firerestrictions.us](http://www.firerestrictions.us) for the most up-to-date information regarding restrictions and burn bans. Folks can also like the Missoula County Fire Protection Association on Facebook, and get information on our webpage: [www.mcfpa.org](http://www.mcfpa.org).

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