



Date: May 14, 2024

Contact: Max Rebholz, Missoula County Office of Emergency Management, Wildfire Preparedness Coordinator. mrebholz@missoulacounty.us or 406-880-8090 (cell).

Fire Danger Raised to **MODERATE** in Missoula County— Outdoor Burning Remains Open

Missoula, MT, May 14, 2024 — Due to increasing temperatures, lack of precipitation, and drying vegetation, wildland fire officials with the Missoula County Fire Protection Association (MCFPA) have raised the fire danger within Missoula County to **MODERATE**, effective immediately. When fire danger is moderate, fires readily start in open, dry grassland and will burn and spread quickly on windy days. Most wood fires will spread slowly to moderately. Residents and visitors are asked to use caution when using fire. Keep campfires small and completely extinguish them before leaving camp.



On average, three out of every four wildfires in Missoula County are human caused with the top causes being debris and open burning, escaped or abandoned campfires, equipment or vehicle use, and fireworks. Know before you go by visiting www.MCFPA.org for further local information and www.MTFireInfo.org for information on fire restrictions in place throughout the state, as well as information on current active fires and wildfire preparedness.

Outdoor burning in Missoula County remains open. This includes the General, Essential Agriculture, and Prescribed Wildland Outdoor Burning seasons. Follow MCFPA Facebook page and website for current outdoor burning information. As a reminder, be sure to activate your burn permit the day in which you plan to burn.

###