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For Immediate Release

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Fire Danger Remains MODERATE in Missoula County

Essential Agriculture & Prescribed Wildland Burning by Permit Opens

September 12, 2019, 12:00 PM- Missoula, Montana – After recent widespread rain, interagency wildland fire officials with the Missoula County Fire Protection Association (MCFPA) are reporting lower fire danger indices within Missoula County. The fire danger rating was lowered to MODERATE last week. Indices dipped into the LOW range briefly this week, but with a return to seasonal temperatures today and through the weekend, fire danger remains MODERATE at this time.

The move does not indicate an end to fire season. Grass and other fine fuels can dry quickly with a return to seasonally warm and dry conditions. Wind can also dry fine fuels quickly.

However, fire danger levels have dropped to the point that allows for two of the three burn categories to be permitted in Missoula County, effective immediately: essential agriculture and prescribed wildland (essential to meet the needs of forested lands or relatively undeveloped range land to improve wildlife habitat, reduce fire hazard, or promote forest health and regeneration). The third, and most common category, general outdoor burning by permit, is closed in Missoula County until March 1, 2020. A helpful guide can be found by clicking this link: [Missoula County Burn Permit Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Finally, MCFPA member agencies would like to thank all of you who are conscientious about lowering the risk of wildfire when you recreate and work around the house: you never leave a campfire unattended until it is dead-out and cold to the touch; you don't toss cigarette butts into dead grass; you check your towing chains before you travel, and at every stop along the way, you make sure they aren't scraping pavement; and you don't burn without an active permit.

To get more information on how to get a permit in Missoula County, go to:

<https://app.mt.gov/burnpermit/>