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Fire Danger Moved to **HIGH** in Missoula Area

Effective Tuesday, September 8, 2020

Residents and Visitors Asked to Still Use Caution When Outdoors!

September 8, 4:00 PM- Missoula, Montana – The recent cold front and moisture that visited the Missoula area on Labor Day has prompted Missoula County fire protection agencies to lower the fire danger in the Missoula area to **HIGH**, effective immediately. However, fuels will dry out quickly with a predicted return of prolonged dry and warm weather, so fire agencies warn residents and visitors, especially hunters heading out into the field, that there is still an elevated threat from fire. High fire danger means that fine fuels ignite readily, and fires start easily from most causes. Unattended brush and campfires are likely to escape, and fires will spread rapidly. Fires may become serious and their control difficult unless attacked successfully when small. 100% of the recent fires in the Missoula area have been human-caused and that means that 100% of our recent fires were preventable! Large wildfires and evacuations occurring throughout Montana should remind us all that we need to remain vigilant about our sparks; fire season is still here.

Although there are no new fire restrictions in the Missoula area, **outdoor burning by permit remains closed** in Missoula County as well as in our surrounding counties. Before you grab that bow, tent, or fishing pole visit FireRestrictions.us/mt to learn of fire restrictions that are in place wherever you are headed. Cool, frosty September mornings also beg for a warming fire—but remember to never leave a campfire unattended! Even if you are coming back in a few hours, make sure that your campfire is DEAD OUT before you leave it. Drown, stir, drown some more, then feel. If it is too hot to touch, then it is too hot to leave. One less spark, one less wildfire!

For more information on fire prevention visit www.MCFPA.org. Recreators are also encouraged to visit www.BeOutdoorSafe.org to plan a safe, fun visit to our incredible Montana wilds.

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