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Fire Danger **EXTREME** in Missoula Area

Effective Immediately

Use Caution When Outdoors!

Missoula, Montana – Hot, dry conditions and lack of precipitation forecasted are prompting Missoula County fire protection agencies to raise the fire danger in the Missoula area to **EXTREME**, effective immediately. Extreme fire danger means that fires start quickly, spread furiously, and burn intensely. All fires are potentially serious and direct attack is rarely possible. The tri-county area including Missoula, Mineral, and Ravalli counties has already experienced 227 wildland fires since the beginning of the year, with 75% of those being human caused (which is 100% preventable!). Approximately 45 of those wildfires started this past week. Limited resource availability due to numerous fires throughout the region compounds the complex fire situation, creating intense competition and prioritization for resources—specifically crews, aircraft, and incident management teams.



“With conditions already so dry and with no reprieve in sight, in addition to much needed resources already getting stretched thin with the local and national fire situation, it is critical that the public exercise caution while recreating outdoors,” says Ashleigh Burwick, Fire Management Officer for the Missoula Unit of the Department of Natural Resources & Conservation’s Southwestern Land Office.

While implementing area fire restrictions is being discussed, there are currently no fire restrictions in place in the Missoula area aside from the fact that outdoor burning by permit remains closed in Missoula County as well as in our surrounding counties. Residents and visitors are urged to visit www.MTFireInfo.org to learn of fire restrictions that are in place throughout Montana. While we cannot regulate the lightning, we CAN control our human caused sparks. We can also prepare for wildfire emergencies by signing up for Missoula County emergency alerts through smart911.com and following wildfire preparedness tips listed on MCFPA.org.

Recent smoke filling our valley appropriately brings with it Smoke Ready Week—a week dedicated to helping residents and visitors learn more about staying healthy during times of persistent wildfire smoke. Visit www.montanawildfiresmoke.org for more information on selecting and using portable air cleaners and filters, making your own air cleaner, using your AC, and coping with the smoke and heat combined. Our changing summers can be daunting, but together we can prepare and get Wildfire Smoke Ready!



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