



MCFPA.ORG

Date: October 28, 2021

Contact: Kristin Mortenson, DNRC-SWLO Fire Prevention,
406-542-4321 or Kristin.Mortenson@mt.gov

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

October 28, 2021 -- Missoula, Montana – Extended cooler weather and precipitation has prompted Missoula County fire protection agencies to reduce the fire danger in the Missoula area to **Low**. When fire danger is low, fuels do not ignite readily from small embers but will if a more intense heat source occurs. Fires in open, dry grasslands may burn freely a few hours after rain, but wood fires spread slowly by creeping or smoldering. Fire managers would like to re-iterate that LOW fire danger is not NO fire danger.

“This recurring pattern of precipitation will definitely hit this fire season with a nasty blow—if not a mortal one, but there are still pockets of dry fuels out there. Campfires not properly extinguished or illegal debris burning can still result in wildfires, as we saw with the numerous late season human caused wildfires that occurred last week,” cautions Kristin Mortenson, Fire Prevention Specialist with the DNRC Southwestern Land Office. “Please only burn when legal and with activated permit, and if camping make sure your campfire is always dead out before you leave it.”



The only burning currently allowed in Missoula County is essential agriculture and prescribed wildland—and that is by permit only. Permits may be obtained or activated at <https://app.egovmt.com/burnpermit/>. Be aware, essential agriculture burning closes on October 31, 2021 and prescribed wildland fire closes on November 30, 2021. **General Burning Season (burning of yard debris/untreated vegetative waste generated onsite) is closed until March 1, 2022.** Within Missoula City limits, parcels must be at least one acre or more in size to be eligible for an outdoor burn permit and recreational fires are banned year-round, with exceptions for barbecues. Inside the Missoula Air Stagnation Zone, it is illegal to burn piles of leaves and grass year-round. Visit www.MissoulaCounty.us/airquality or www.MCFPA.org for more information on outdoor burning seasons, permits, and current restrictions.

###