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## Fire Danger **VERY HIGH** in Missoula County

### Residents and Visitors Asked to Continue to Use Caution When Outdoors

Missoula, Montana – A cooler, low pressure weather pattern that has settled into western Montana has helped to increase fuel moistures, prompting Missoula County fire protection agencies to lower the fire danger in the Missoula area to **VERY HIGH**, effective immediately. Although the arrow is moving back a notch, Very High fire danger still means that caution is warranted. Fires will start easily from all causes, *immediately* spread rapidly, and increase quickly in intensity.

“We move the arrow to better respond to actual conditions on the ground,” explains Missoula Rural Fire District Fire Chief Chris Newman. “Fire danger is the potential for fires to ignite, spread, and require suppression. It is a science-based calculation using current and predicted conditions of fuels and weather, but fire managers also apply their local knowledge of how fire works on their landscape. The science indicates that we have decreased in fire danger and that is what we are seeing on the ground as well.”



Residents and visitors are still urged to use extra caution when outdoors due to the very high fire danger and to visit [www.MTFireInfo.org](http://www.MTFireInfo.org) to learn of local fire activity and fire restrictions that are in place throughout Montana. There are no fire restrictions in place in Missoula County at this time but outdoor burning by permit remains closed. The County has had 21 reported wildland fires in the last week and only one-third of those wildfires were reported as lightning caused—even with the plentiful lightning that we have received. Unattended and/or escaped campfires are the top culprit for human caused fires in Missoula County this year. We can't regulate the lightning, but we CAN control our human caused sparks.

For more information on fire prevention visit [www.MCFPA.org](http://www.MCFPA.org) or follow us on Facebook @MissoulaCountyFireProtectionAssociation.

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