

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION



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Dear Partner Organizations:

The summer of 2006 finds us amidst another extremely active fire season, small blazes are quickly erupting into major incidents, while fire fighters scramble to keep up with the innumerable fires starting each day. The fire danger indicators we use to judge the severity of the fire situation are tracking along the lines of past banner years such as 2000 and 2003.

Faced with these conditions, on behalf of the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and the many local fire agencies across the State of Montana we are asking the help of your members in preventing wildfires in our state. Firefighters need you, and the members of your organization, to pitch in and help this season by preventing human caused fires. Preventing wildfires not only saves taxpayer dollar, but it also protects the invaluable natural resources that we all enjoy.

There are several ways your organization can pitch in and help during this ongoing fire season:

Currently many areas of the state are under fire restrictions of one level or another; please make yourself familiar with restrictions in your area and the areas where you may plan to travel. You can get up-to-date restrictions information by contacting your local fire protection agency or check out the restrictions website at: http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcg/restrictions_index.htm

In areas under Stage Two Restrictions, motorized off road travel is prohibited, but please remember that even in areas where it is allowed, off road driving could ignite dry grasses. Additionally we would like to remind you that state law requires an approved spark arrestor or exhaust system on any internal combustion engine.

If you are in a campsite where campfires are allowed, make sure your fire is dead out before leaving it unattended. Even if you are only going to be away for a short time it only takes a few seconds for an escaped campfire to become a wildfire.

If you do spot a wildfire while you are out enjoying Montana, report it to 911 as soon as possible. The smaller the fire is the easier it is for firefighters to corral it.

We at the DNRC thank you for your any help you can provide, in preventing wildfires this season. Not only is it an important job, but it is one we must all take very seriously.

If you have any question or concerns, please contact the DNRC Fire Prevention Specialist Pat Cross at 406-542-4251 or by email at pcross@mt.gov

Sincerely