

Glenda Wiles

From: Bateson, Anna - FS <anna.bateson@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 26, 2019 8:59 AM
Subject: News Release: Fire Danger Level Raised to High
Attachments: Fire Danger - High.docx; High Fire Danger.JPG

Fire Danger Level Raised to High

Hamilton, Montana (July 26, 2019) – Fire danger on the Bitterroot National Forest has been raised to “High” today.

Hotter and drier weather is predicted with the possibility of thunderstorms starting today into early next week. When fire danger is “high” fires will start from most causes. The fires will spread rapidly and short-distance spotting is common. All fine dead fuels ignite readily and unattended brush and campfires are likely to escape. High intensity burning may develop on slopes, or in concentrations of fine fuels. Fires may become serious and their control difficult unless they are hit hard and fast while small.

At this time there are no fire restrictions in place, however with drier conditions and “high” fire danger, visitors are reminded to be careful while recreating in the forest.

Those planning camping trips should follow these fire safety tips:

Be sure to pack a shovel and a bucket for extinguishing your campfire. Keep campfires small, and completely extinguish them before leaving camp. The best method is to douse the fire with water, stir the ashes and douse again, making sure that all ashes are cold to the touch. It is illegal to have unattended campfires. ALL fires must be DEAD OUT when left unattended and before leaving the site.

Smokers should light up only in areas cleared of all flammable debris. Cigarette butts should never be thrown from vehicle windows.

Those exploring the forest and back country in vehicles must stay on established roads and trails and avoid driving over dry grass and brush that could be ignited by hot exhaust systems. Firewood cutters should operate chainsaws equipped with spark arresters in the cool morning hours and keep a shovel and fire extinguisher nearby.

This year, firefighters on the Bitterroot National Forest have extinguished 30 lightning caused fires and 11 person caused fires. Stay in touch with us through www.facebook.com/DiscoverBitterrootNF and www.twitter.com/BitterrootNF.

###



Anna Bateson
Fire Prevention
Forest Service
Bitterroot National Forest

p: 406-363-7150
c: 406-360-5638
anna.bateson@usda.gov

1801 North First
Hamilton, MT 59840
www.fs.fed.us

