



For immediate release: Aug. 27, 2015

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STAGE II FIRE RESTRICTIONS TO BEGIN FRIDAY

Stage II fire restrictions will go into effect at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 28, in the City of Missoula, including City open space and conservation lands.

Missoula Fire Chief Jason Diehl and Mayor John Engen decided to join federal, state and county officials in moving to Stage II restrictions because of continuing dry conditions and hot weather. The current fire danger is rated as Very High in the Missoula area. Some public lands north of Missoula have moved into Extreme in fire danger rating.

Stage II restrictions prohibit campfires. Smoking is prohibited except within an enclosed vehicle or building or while stopped in an area that is clear of all flammable materials in a 3-foot circle.

Stage II restrictions on City open space and conservation lands also prohibit operating motorized vehicles off designated roads and trails; operating any internal combustion engine, welding or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame between 1 p.m. and 6 a.m.; or using an explosive during the same hours. These activities are normally prohibited on city open space and conservation lands. Those lands include Mount Jumbo, the North Hills, Tower Street conservation area and all other City open space.

City of Missoula Fire Department leadership and Mayor Engen ask the public to exercise extreme caution with fire and potential fire-starting activities.

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