



Date: June 28, 2004  
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As the Fourth of July approaches, the public is reminded that discharging fireworks is prohibited on all federal and state lands. For regulations on county lands, please contact your local fire department or sheriff's office.

In addition, Stage I fire restrictions are now in place on private, state and Bureau of Land Management lands in Stillwater, Musselshell, and Sweet Grass counties. Under Stage I, campfires are permitted only within developed recreation sites or improved sites; and smoking is allowed only within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials.

Under Stage I, exemptions are allowed for persons using a fire solely fueled by liquid petroleum or LPG; for a federal, state, or local officer, or member of an organized law enforcement, rescue, or firefighting force, in the performance of an official duty; or for persons with a permit or written authorization allowing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.

**An exemption does not absolve an individual or organization from liability or responsibility for any fire started by the exempted activity.**

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The Bureau of Land Management also has placed restrictions on the Four Dances Natural Area, the Acton area, Sundance Lodge Special Recreation Area, and Shepherd Ah-Nei. In those areas, fireworks, campfires or charcoal fires are not allowed; and smoking is permitted only inside a vehicle, building, designated campground or an area at least three feet in diameter that is cleared of all flammable material. Motorized vehicles are permitted in the Four Dances, Acton, and Sundance Lodge areas, but must have properly installed spark arrestors. Shepherd Ah-Nei is closed to motorized vehicles.

Despite the recent rainfall, larger fuels such as trees have record-low moisture levels and will burn easily. The danger of wildland fire will increase even more as the summer heats up. Please take extra caution when working and recreating outdoors to help prevent wildland fire starts. **Anyone who causes a wildland fire intentionally or through negligence may be held accountable for damage and suppression costs.**

General precautions include ensuring that your campfire is dead out before you leave it; smoking in an enclosed vehicle or building and crushing it out completely; and parking only in areas clear of vegetation.

In general, burn permits are required for any open burning other than campfires, but there may be additional fire restrictions in your area. Before burning such things as slash piles, ditches, or fields, please contact your local fire department or sheriff's office for more information and to obtain any necessary permits.

For more information about preventing wildland fires, please contact the Custer National Forest at 406-657-6200; Bureau of Land Management at 406-896-5013; Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation at 406-247-4400; Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks at 406-247-2940; Carbon County at 406-446-1595; Stillwater County at 406-321-0204; or your local fire department or sheriff's office.

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