



Ravalli County Office of Emergency Management

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Press Release – July 1, 2021

Closure of outdoor debris burning in Ravalli County

The Ravalli County Commissioners have approved the closure of outdoor debris burning in Ravalli County, effective at 12:01 am on Friday, July 2. This action was in response to recent near-record high temperatures throughout the valley and continued forecast of hot and dry conditions and rapidly increasing fire danger. During the closure, the Burn Permit System will be shut down and will not allow activations of burn permits.

As we enter the Independence Day holiday weekend, local fire officials and emergency managers are asking for support in preventing human caused fires. Residents and visitors to our valley are encouraged to avoid the use of any type of aerial fireworks, including roman candles, bottle rockets, and artillery shells. Burning debris from these fireworks can fall back to the ground and ignite nearby dry grass or other flammable materials. Use of any fireworks is always prohibited on public lands, including National Forest lands.

Recreational and cooking fires up to 48 inches will continue to be allowed at this time, as long as the fire is fully attended and completely extinguished and cold to the touch before leaving the area of the fire.

Keep in mind the following fire prevention tips:

- Fireworks are never allowed on public lands, including National Forest Lands.
- Take extreme care in the use of fireworks throughout the Independence Day weekend. Fire managers are recommending against the use of aerial fireworks.
- Avoid driving or parking vehicles in tall, dry grass. Exhaust systems and catalytic converters easily start fires.
- Ensure safety chains on trailers or other equipment do not drag, causing sparks.
- Dispose of smoking materials properly. In a vehicle, use the ashtray; outside, crush smoking materials and matches dead out on an area of bare ground larger than 3 feet in diameter.
- Make sure all mechanical outdoor equipment (tractors, chainsaws, off-road vehicles, etc.) are equipped with properly-working mufflers, spark arresters, and bearings.
- Before recreating outdoors, please check for any other particular fire restrictions on state or federal lands, or in other counties or tribal lands in Montana and neighboring states.

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