

Emergency Burning Restrictions -Public Information-

Under Emergency Burning Restrictions it is illegal to burn or set fire to any combustible materials within DNR organized protection, outside of incorporated cities and villages. This includes fireworks. Violations will be cited under NR 30.05. Below is some general guidance during these times:

Debris Burning

- All outdoor debris burning is prohibited
- Burning has been suspended; this includes the use of a burn barrel

Recommendations:

Consider alternatives to burning your leaves and brush. Instead of burning, consider chipping and/or composting your yard waste. If you do decide to burn your yard waste, wait until we have complete snow cover. Those with burn barrels should make different arrangements to dispose of their items.

Burning of Any Combustible Material

- Burning of any combustible material is strictly prohibited under Emergency Burning Restrictions.
- Throwing matches, ashes, or burning material from a vehicle is prohibited.

Recommendations:

Avoid any or all outdoor burning until conditions improve.

Avoid any means of introducing fire to grass, brush, or wildland vegetation.

Campfires

- It is unlawful to build campfires in any manner except in developed camping areas that have a campfire ring.
- Backyard campfire pits, rings, and fireplaces are considered ‘campfires’ and are prohibited.
- Campfires in undeveloped campsites such as wilderness areas are prohibited
- Campfires on state lands in designated areas (State Parks/Forests) are at the discretion of that Park/Forest. It’s best to check before you burn.

Recommendations:

Avoid using campfires right now. Pack a cold meal.

Charcoal Grills

- Charcoal grills may be used in the immediate vicinity of a residential dwelling if placed on a non combustible surface only (such as concrete or gravel) with significant clearance and attended at all times
- Improper ash/briquette disposal and charcoal grill use in grassy or woody areas is prohibited.

Recommendations:

Avoid using charcoal grills right now. If using a charcoal grill on a non combustible surface, make sure to dispose of charcoal briquettes in a non combustible receptacle. Make sure they are out cold!

Smoking

- Smoking a pipe, cigar, or cigarette in the outdoors is restricted to places of residence or in a vehicle equipped with an ashtray
- Throwing matches, ashes, or burning materials from a vehicle is prohibited

Recommendations:

Keep smoking restricted to indoors where allowed by law, or in a vehicle and dispose all burning materials (matches, butts, etc.) in a non combustible trash receptacle. Do not throw any burning material out a vehicle window.

Fireworks

- **All** fireworks use is prohibited

Recommendations:

Avoid using legal fireworks right now until the emergency burning restrictions are lifted.

Off-Road Vehicle Use (includes logging equipment)

- Be extra cautious with off-road vehicles including farm and logging equipment in woody or grassy areas
- Exhaust systems and sparks from all-terrain vehicles and automobiles can cause a fire
- There are no 'burning restrictions' for off-road vehicle use and logging equipment, but any fire caused by such is subject to suppression costs
- Make sure you have a certified, working spark arrestor on your equipment that is intended for that particular piece of equipment.

Recommendations:

Do not park your vehicle on dry grass or woody debris. Stay on gravel or dirt paths and roads. Make sure you have a proper spark arrester and check for fuel leaks. Carry a fire extinguisher at all times. Always check for trail restrictions/closures before you ride.

Welding/Torching

- Welding, torching, and surface grinding in hazardous areas is prohibited

Recommendations:

Avoid any welding, torching, and surface grinding until emergency restrictions are lifted. If possible, keep it indoors.

Outdoor Wood Boilers

- While it will not be illegal to operate an outdoor wood boiler at this time, we strongly discourage their use.
- Improper ash disposal in grassy or woody areas is prohibited.

Recommendations:

- *Avoid using outdoor wood boilers if at all possible.*
- *Make sure your wood boiler is maintained properly, and has a proper, working spark arrestor on the chimney.*
- *Ensure the surrounding area is cleared to mineral soil and the area is cleared of vegetation and other combustible material.*
- *When removing and discarding ashes from the wood boiler or any wood burning stove, make sure to dispose of the ashes in a non combustible receptacle. Make sure they are out cold!*

Miscellaneous: *There will be many other ways to introduce fire to the wildland, either intentionally or accidentally. Not all measures can be addressed here.*

*The take home lesson is this... **“If in doubt....Put it out!!”***

Thank you for your cooperation during this time of emergency burning restrictions!!

Let's keep our fields and forests fire free for everyone!

LIABILITY FOR WILDFIRES

Regardless of Emergency Burning Restrictions, any individual who sets fires on any land at anytime and allows it to become a forest fire, shall be liable for all expenses incurred in the suppression of the fire by the state or town in which the fire occurred.

Any person, whose property is injured or destroyed by fires, may recover, in a civil action, the value of timber or any other damages suffered from person's causing such fires.