



## *Northwest Interagency Coordination Center* Media Advisory

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# Fire Prevention for 4<sup>th</sup> of July Weekend

Portland, OR - With the Fourth of July holiday soon here, visitors and recreationists to federal and state lands in Oregon and Washington are asked to help avoid starting wildfires.

**Fireworks are prohibited on all federal and state-protected lands.**

Spring rains and warming temperatures have produced abundant grasses and shrubs. Even though the rains have continued in recent days, it will take only a few hours of sunny weather, wind and warm temperatures to cure and dry this heavy fine fuel load. People should be very cautious with campfires, debris burning, and choose parking areas that are clear of dry grasses and other flammable materials.

Campfires should never be left unattended; be sure it is dead out before leaving. Choose parking areas that are clear of dry grass and beware of fine fuels collecting near exhaust systems of vehicles. Be sure recreational vehicles have operating spark arresters. Before burning debris, contact local fire protection offices to see if it is allowed. Even if allowed, never burn on windy days.

As the summer weather warms and the forests dry out, be sure to check with the local area to see if campfires are allowed.

Approximately 90 percent of fires are human-caused. Remember, Smokey Bear's old message "Only You Can Prevent Wildfires" still rings true today.

Note to editor: The media desk at the Northwest Coordination Center is up and running. Current hours of operation are from 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Hours will expand as activity increases. Check out [nwccweb.us](http://www.nwccweb.us) anytime for current fire status and fire history.

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