



Northwest Colorado Fire Management Unit



For Immediate Release
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Fire Danger Is High To Very High

(Craig, CO-) In Moffat and Rio Blanco Counties, fire danger is holding at high to very high. An abundant amount of grasses are cured and vegetation going into the dormant stage in some areas, leaving dead foliage with no moisture. “Even though we experienced a decent amount rain over northwest Colorado earlier this summer, the current state of the vegetation combined with windy, dry days has put us back in the ‘high to very high’ fire danger category,” said Mark Rogers, Northwest Colorado Fire Management Officer. “The potential for large fire growth is here.”

Craig Fire Rescue, Maybell Volunteer Fire Department, Artesia Volunteer Fire Department and Moffat County Sheriff’s Department have been responding to numerous wildland fires on private land. Some of the fires have been the result of sparks from mechanical equipment or an ATV. “Conditions are such that even with water and shovels, all it takes is a shift in the wind to send a fire racing beyond a person’s capability to stop,” said Moffat County Sheriff Tim Jantz. “We’re asking people to hold off any unnecessary outdoor burning,” he continued.

Your county sheriff, fire chiefs, and public land managers encourage everyone to remember fire safety tips. In case you’ve forgotten here are a few key points:

- **Call the county sheriff’s department** and inform them of date, time and location, of any debris or agricultural burning you’re conducting
- **Don’t park your vehicle in tall grass or weeds.** The hot catalytic converter on your car can start a fire in a very short time.
- **Leave fireworks at home**
- **Always have a shovel and water close by to douse fires.**
- **Don’t leave a campfire unattended,** it’s a fineable offense and hot embers can lead to wildland fires.
- **Smoke only in cleared areas** and dispose of cigarettes properly.
- **Make sure all campfires are built on bare mineral soil and are completely out when leaving the area**

To report a wildland fire call 911 and be prepared to give your location and the location of the reported fire.

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