

MISSOULA RURAL FIRE DISTRICT STAY UP TO DATE

OUTDOOR BURNING IS NOW OPEN

Burn permits are now available for purchase and activation, as of March 1st, through the attached Burn Permits link. All permits must be activated the day that you plan to burn, if there is a concern for fire danger or air quality, the Missoula County Health Department may not allow you to activate your permit on that given day. Permit activation is from 9 am to 4 pm, meaning the fire must be out cold by 4 pm unless you get approved for a burning extension. Be sure to practice safe burning: your fire must be attended at all times, have a water supply handy (garden hose, shovel, fire extinguisher), only burn natural vegetation and untreated wood, overhead clearance should be 3 times the height of the pile, there should be a 10 ft radius of noncombustible materials around the pile (including tall and/or dry grass), be aware of the incoming weather, and continue to check your fire throughout the evening to make sure it is out cold.

DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Creating defensible space around your home builds a line of defense for your home from the wildland fire, increasing the odds of your home's survival. Defensible space makes a break in fuel between your home and the forest. With the warmer days, take a walk around your home and determine what can catch fire and carry that fire to your home. You should have a zone of 0-5 ft from your home without any combustible items, 5-30 ft should be a well kept lawn (here there can be shrubs and trees sparsely throughout), past 30 ft make sure there is not a lot of overgrowth. For a more comprehensive list of the Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) check the attached link. Make sure there is ingress and egress for firefighters to be able to find and reach your home.

WEATHER-MOISTURE

Weather reports indicate that Missoula and surrounding areas (Clark Fork Basin and Bitterroot Basin) are between 75-95% snowpack compared to normal. That being said, between rain and snow, the Missoula area is sitting at the average moisture level so far this winter. Relative humidity is also average for this time of year, which tends to be higher in the winter months.

FIREFIGHTER CLOSE CALLS

In February in Kentucky, a firefighter was operating the pump panel on a grass fire when a small SUV, blinded by smoke, struck the side of the engine, throwing the firefighter onto the roadway. On February 9th on a grass/hay fire, a firefighter was struck by a skid steer operated by the landowner while moving a smoking bale of hay. This driver was also blinded by smoke. This is a good reminder to always stay alert and safe around emergency situations.

LINKS

[MISSOULA
RURAL FIRE
DISTRICT](#)

[BURN
PERMITS](#)

[PATHFINDER
ARTICLE-
FACTS ON
OUTDOOR
BURNING](#)

[HOME
IGNITION
ZONE](#)

[MISSOULA
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[BOARD OF
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MEETING
SCHEDULE](#)



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