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For Immediate Release

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Fire Danger VERY HIGH in Missoula County

Outdoor Permit Burning Remains CLOSED

July 10, 2017, 2:00 PM- Missoula, Montana – Interagency wildland fire officials with the Missoula County Fire Protection Association (MCFPA) are reporting fire danger indices within Missoula County to be **VERY HIGH**.

Recent weeks have seen record-setting high temperatures and grasses continuing to cure. This fine, dead fuel is the primary carrier of fire in the wildland, and when fires get established in this fuel type they spread out of control rapidly. Multiple grass fires, caused by human behavior (cigarette butts thrown into dry grass, unattended campfires, fireworks, debris burning, and vehicle fires) have escaped initial attack in the last week across the Northern Rockies, some transitioning into the forest with rapid rates of spread.

After a wet spring, dead fuels have dried to the point that fires will quickly spread out of the control of initial attack resources. Lightning and extreme fire danger are in the immediate forecast, and firefighters are busy with recent starts.

Outdoor debris burning by permit has been closed in Missoula County since July 4, and outdoor burning in Ravalli County will close at 12:01 am on July 13.

Residents need to know that our wildland firefighters face a long, arduous fire season even without having to respond to human-caused fires. Everyone needs to take special care when engaged in activities that could ignite a wildfire. Remember: one less spark, one less wildfire.

Even though wildfire agencies have not implemented Stage 1 fire restrictions at this time, everyone is encouraged to bookmark www.firerestrictions.us for the most up-to-date information regarding restrictions and burn bans. Folks can also like the Missoula County Fire Protection Association on Facebook, and get information on our webpage: www.mcfpa.org.