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STAGE I FIRE RESTRICTIONS TO BEGIN THURSDAY

The City of Missoula will join other West Central Montana agencies in enacting Stage I fire restrictions early Thursday morning.

Conditions are extremely dry, and the area is experiencing high temperatures and fuel moisture minimums, said Missoula Fire Chief Jason Diehl.

“We have some urban-interface lands – like Mount Jumbo, Mount Sentinel and Waterworks Hill – that are precious to the community but are also prone to fire,” Diehl said.

Stage I restrictions apply to City open space and conservation lands. The restrictions prohibit smoking and any use of fire or open flame. Campfires and detonation of fireworks are prohibited year-round.

The restrictions go into effect at 12:01 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 1.

Mayor John Engen issued an Emergency Proclamation on Wednesday authorizing City departments to take appropriate measures to protect public safety, health and general welfare in the face of a fire danger rating of Extreme. The Missoula Board of County Commissioners issued a similar proclamation on Thursday, July 27.

Missoula residents have traditionally worked together to prevent wildfires, Diehl said.

“Our citizens understand the dangers of wildfire,” he said. “We really appreciate their cooperation.”

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