

RESOLUTION 24-2017

JEFFERSON COUNTY STAGE ONE FIRE RESTRICTIONS EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, high temperatures and low precipitation have occurred within Jefferson County resulting in dry fuel conditions, poor soil moisture conditions and low water supplies which has contributed to a **HIGH** (and increasing) wildland fire danger; and

WHEREAS, the weather forecasts for Jefferson County indicate little relief from the dry conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners declares that all the private land not under the jurisdiction of the municipalities or state or federal agencies is a high fire hazard area.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Jefferson County Commissioners that **STAGE ONE Fire Restrictions** are in effect for all private lands in Jefferson County, due to **HIGH** (and increasing) wildland fire danger. Exemptions for agriculture activities such as harvesting crops, burning ditch banks and stubble are hereby exempt. However, agricultural producers must obtain a valid burning permit and must notify the Jefferson County 9-1-1 Dispatch Center and their local Rural Fire Department before conducting any controlled burning and have fire suppression equipment on site; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that all activities that might potentially cause a fire shall cease immediately and be prohibited until further notice. The following acts or uses are prohibited on all private lands in Jefferson County, Montana:

- a) Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire or campfire unless noted in the exemptions below.
- b) Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is cleared of all flammable material.
- c) In addition to the prohibitions in Section 50-37-103, MCA, the use of fireworks during Stage 1 Restrictions is prohibited.

Exemptions:

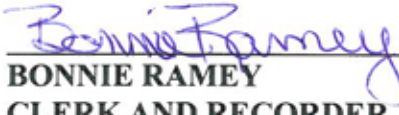
1. Campfire on private property are exempt as long as they are within an improved fire ring and are no larger than three feet wide, three feet in length, and three feet tall.
2. Any Federal, State, or local officer or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.
3. All land within a city boundary is exempt.

AN EXEMPTION DOES NOT ABSOLVE AN INDIVIDUAL OR ORGANIZATION FROM LIABILITY OR RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY FIRE STARTED BY THE EXEMPTED ACTIVITY.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this resolution becomes effective at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, August 5, 2017 and shall remain in effect until such time as it may be amended or rescinded by the Board of Jefferson County Commissioners.

ADOPTED this 3rd day of August, 2017 by the Board of County Commissioners, Jefferson County, Montana.

ATTEST:



BONNIE RAMEY
CLERK AND RECORDER



CORY KIRSCH, CHAIR



LEONARD WORTMAN, COMMISSIONER



BOB MULLEN, COMMISSIONER



NEWS RELEASE

NRCG - Central Montana Zone

****For Immediate Release****

Stage 1 Fire Restrictions Starts Saturday for Parts of North-Central/Central Montana

Wednesday, August 2, 2017—Beginning at 12:01 a.m. Saturday, August 5, 2017, Stage I Fire Restrictions will go into effect on most federal*, state, tribal, and county lands within the following counties: Broadwater, Cascade, Chouteau, Fergus, Glacier, Golden Valley, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lewis & Clark, Liberty, Meagher, Musselshell, Pondera, Powell, Teton, Toole, and Wheatland.

(*Exception: Glacier National Park)

Under Stage 1 Fire Restrictions the following activities are generally **prohibited**; however each agency/county will have specific exemptions that will apply:

1. Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire or campfire, unless noted in the exemptions of the agency or county restrictions order.
2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials.

Contact your local fire management agency, volunteer fire department, or visit the Fire Restrictions website (<https://firerestrictions.us/mt/>) to view each specific order and respective exemptions.

The purpose of fire restrictions is to reduce the risk of human-caused fires during periods of very high to extreme fire danger. These areas are experiencing critical fire conditions, including dry fuels, hot temperatures, low humidity, and high winds, all of which are expected to continue.

For more information about fire restrictions, and to check what areas are currently** under restrictions, visit the Fire Restriction website at: <https://firerestrictions.us/mt/> or call your local fire management agency or volunteer fire department.

***These areas will be updated on the Restrictions website on Saturday, August 5, 2017.*

-END-