

For Immediate Release:
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An Interagency News Release

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Memorial Day Weekend—Let's Be Careful Out there!!

Santa Fe, NM, May 24, 2006 – Fire danger is approaching extreme in some areas of the state with high to very high temps the rule and warm, dry, and breezy conditions predicted for the weekend. This weather coupled with extremely dry vegetation means almost any new fire start has the potential to become another Cerro Grande. There are many ways to prevent fires; some are obvious like obeying the campfire and smoking restrictions that are in effect across most of the state. Others are not so obvious. Below - actual examples that might surprise you:

- Driving on a flat tire, the rim and pavement caused sparks setting a multi-thousand acre grass fire,
- A dragging safety chain from a boat trailer set off a series of fires
- Every year, wildfires are caused by vehicles with hot catalytic converters parking on dry vegetation,
- Ricocheting bullets have caused numerous wildfires,
- Setting signal fires, by lost or injured individuals, has caused numerous wildfires,
- Weed-eaters, chain saws, welders, and other internal combustion engines have caused numerous fires even when their use was not banned,
- Improperly maintained brakes and wheel bearings, especially in trailers and
- Discarded charcoal and glass are responsible for numerous fire starts.

And from the believe it or not category:

- One individual started a fire in the middle of fire season by welding on his trailer---in the middle of his community—with his trailer full of sawdust - the results were obvious.
- Still another person decided to eliminate his beehive problem with a stick of dynamite hanging from a pole, another bad idea during any season, let alone fire season.
- Fires have been documented from sparks caused by shod horses along a trail, children throwing rocks against other rocks causing sparks resulting in a wildfire, and cigarettes,
- Such as the one tossed by an individual out his pick-up truck window, setting his camping gear on fire in the back of the truck as well as starting a small wildfire.

New Mexico Wildfire & Restriction Information

www.nmfireinfo.com
or call 1-877-864-6985

Fire restriction information can change on a daily basis and the various federal, state, local and county agencies all have differing mandates and restriction notices. It is always best to call ahead to the local office where you plan on visiting or working, to get the most up-to-date information.

