



NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 23, 2006

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NM State Forester Urges Caution While Using Fireworks

(Santa Fe, New Mexico) - Fireworks and celebrations go together, especially during the Fourth of July holiday. However, in New Mexico, high fire conditions have made the use of fireworks extremely dangerous.

Extreme drought, high temperatures, high fuel levels and low humidity have created very dry conditions across the state. Fire restrictions are in place covering all non-municipal, non-federal and non-tribal lands. These restrictions prohibit the use of fireworks as well. Check with your local law enforcement or fire departments to see if there any further municipal or county restrictions in your area.

"I'm asking people to not use fireworks this year because we're in such danger for fire," said New Mexico State Forester Arthur "Butch" Blazer. "There's no reason to endanger lives and entire communities during the upcoming holiday. I strongly encourage New Mexicans to take part in community celebrations with organized fireworks shows. If, however, you do choose to celebrate with your own, please obey all restrictions and use only legal, approved fireworks."

If the use of fireworks is not restricted where you live and you decide to use them, be sure to follow these important safety tips:

- ★ Fireworks are NEVER allowed on public lands in New Mexico. These include New Mexico State Parks and Monuments, National Forests, Parks and Monuments, municipal parks and open spaces. Check with your local fire departments for details specific to your community regarding other restrictions. Also check www.nmforestry.com for the current list of fire restrictions around the state.
- ★ Never allow children to play with or ignite fireworks.
- ★ Read and follow all label warnings and instructions.
- ★ Be sure family members or other spectators are out of range before lighting fireworks.
- ★ Only light fireworks on a smooth, flat surface away from the house, dry leaves and vegetation, and flammable materials.
- ★ Never try to relight fireworks that have not gone off.
- ★ Keep a bucket of water or hose nearby in case of a malfunction or fire. Douse spent fireworks with water prior to disposal.

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