



OFFICIAL NEWS RELEASE

MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 29, 2016

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Mississippi Forestry Commission Urges Fire Safety July 4th Weekend

JACKSON, Miss. – The Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) would like to remind everyone celebrating Independence Day this weekend to exercise caution using outdoor grills, campfires, and fireworks. Charlie Morgan, State Forester, emphasized the far-reaching consequences of wildfire: “Wildfires can start with just a spark, and spread quickly to endanger forestland, personal property, and lives.” Nine out of ten wildfires are preventable and caused by people. Please do your part to help prevent wildfires by exercising proper fire safety. Remember, only you can prevent wildfires!

The list below includes recommendations from MFC officials to help you prevent wildfire occurrences:

- Check local laws and ordinances for your area to make sure fireworks are allowed.
- Find out if there is a burn ban in effect for your area before burning. For a complete list of burn bans, click [here](#).
- Avoid shooting fireworks in or near dry grass, leaves, or other combustible materials.
- Check the local weather forecast - do not discharge fireworks on dry, windy days.
- Thoroughly soak the area with water where fireworks are to be discharged and have a garden hose or other source of water on hand.
- The same preventive measures apply when using charcoal grills or campfires. When you are finished using a charcoal grill, always let the coals cool completely and douse in water before disposing of them in a metal container. Never leave a grill unattended.
- Choose a safe burn site for recreational burning - keep the campfire small, and only burn untreated wood debris (waste, plastic, rubber tires, and other manufactured products may not be burned). To view the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality standards regarding outdoor burning, click [here](#).
- To report a wildfire, dial 911 or call the Central Dispatch Center for your area, click [here](#).

Established in 1926, the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) protects the state’s valuable forest resources from wildfire, manages approximately 480,000 acres of forested School Trust Land, and delivers quality forest management services and assistance to both rural and urban landowners. Our mission is to provide active leadership in forest protection, forest management, forest inventory, and effective forest information distribution, necessary for Mississippi’s sustainable forest-based economy.

There are approximately 19.7 million forested acres in Mississippi. The forestry and forest products industry has a \$12.3 billion economic impact on the state of Mississippi and represents almost 70,000 jobs. For more information, please visit www.mfc.ms.gov.

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Resources:

Click [here](#) to visit the MFC on Facebook

Click [here](#) to visit the MFC on Twitter

Click [here](#) to view county burn bans

Click [here](#) to view MDEQ standards on outdoor burning

Click [here](#) to view the Central Dispatch Center for your area