



# **P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

**DATE: Wednesday, September 8, 2010**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Director of Emergency Services**  
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## **FIRE DANGER REDUCED TO MODERATE**

**MISSOULA** – The Missoula County Fire Protection Association has lowered the fire danger in Missoula County to Moderate, effective this date. This action has been taken in response to cooler, moister conditions that have developed, and the prospect that those conditions will continue.

Even though the fire danger has been lowered to Moderate, the general outdoor burning season closed on August 31. After August 31, only Essential Agricultural Burning and Prescribed Wildland Burning are allowed. Essential Agricultural Burning, which requires a permit, is defined by rule as only that which occurs on a farm or a ranch to eliminate excess vegetation from cultivated fields, to improve range conditions or to improve wildlife habitat. These burns are almost always field or broadcast burns – not the burning of piles. Essential agricultural burning is only allowed in the fall if it is necessary that it be done in the fall for legitimate agricultural reasons.

Essential Agricultural Burning is not allowed after October 31, and Prescribed Wildland Burning ends on November 30. Those with questions about open burning or other air quality regulations should contact either the Missoula City-County Health Department Environmental Health Division at 258-4755, or their local fire department or district.