



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: Mary Cernicek (307)739-5564

Twitter: [@BridgerTetonNF](https://twitter.com/BridgerTetonNF)

Bridger-Teton National Forest Wants Campfires Dead Out

Western Wyo., September 25, 2019 – The Bridger-Teton National Forest fire and fuels staff are advising National Forest visitors and particularly campers and hunters, to use caution when building and maintaining campfires. Attention throughout the fall should also be given to identifying other sources that could ignite a wildfire, such as discarded cigarettes or hot mufflers on vehicles parked in tall, dry grass.

Always make sure that campfires are thoroughly extinguished before leaving a fire unattended. This is effectively done by stirring coals and other burned materials with water until cool. Even if your fire is a relatively small warming fire, the fire should be dead out before you leave the site.

The number one culprit of human-caused fires that require the attention of Forest Service fire crews is escaped campfires which are not fully extinguished.

Even as the days become shorter and temperatures trend downward, there will still be multiple periods where warm, dry, or windy conditions could align with receptive fuels, creating potential for explosive wildfire development and growth.

Additional fire safety messages from the U.S. Forest Service to Forest recreationists are below. Hunters, campers, and other public land users need to follow basic fire safety rules:

- Scrape back dead grass and forest materials from your campfire site.
- Keep your campfire small and under control; make it only as big as you need it.
- Keep a shovel and a water container nearby to douse escaped embers.

- Do not park vehicles in tall dry grass, since hot tailpipes can cause fine fuels to catch on fire.
- Remember that any ignition – cigarettes, campfires, gunfire, vehicles – could be the cause of a wildland fire, as grass and other vegetation is dry and extremely flammable.
- Always follow current fire restrictions.
- Fireworks are not allowed on federal lands.

To receive news from the Bridger-Teton National Forest, you can self-subscribe to our mailing list by following this link <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/btnf/home> In the center of the page, enter your email address and then submit the request. You will then be able to choose what news release topics you wish to receive.

The mission of the U.S. Forest Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. Public lands the Forest Service manages contribute more than \$13 billion to the economy each year through visitor spending alone. Those same lands provide 30 percent of the nation's surface drinking water to cities and rural communities and approximately 66 million Americans rely on drinking water that originated from the National Forest System. The agency also has either a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 900 million forested acres within the U.S., of which over 130 million acres are urban forests where most Americans live.

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