

News *fire information*

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News Release

Color Country Interagency Fire Management

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Fire managers prepare for increased fire danger

Working together to reduce human caused wildfires

ST GEORGE, Utah - Fire managers in the Color Country Interagency Fire Management Area (southwest Utah and northwest Arizona) are working closely together to prepare for what could be another challenging fire season. “May and June are forecasted to be hotter and drier than normal, likely bringing increased wildfire threat to lower elevations,” Fire Management Officer Josh Tibbetts said. “Roadside fires, abandoned campfires, and debris burning on private lands were the leading causes of human caused wildfires in 2021 for Utah,” Tibbetts added.

With warming spring temperatures, public land managers and wildland firefighters expect another year of record-breaking outdoor recreation and encourage the public to recreate responsibly while enjoying Utah’s public lands. “There is a good possibility that many areas of southwest Utah and northwest Arizona will again go into fire restrictions this summer,” Tibbetts said. The higher-elevation snow is quickly melting and the conditions for a wildfire will only increase as the summer progresses.

Using Utah’s interagency awareness campaign “[Fire Sense](#)” precautions when conducting any outdoor activity will help prevent unwanted wildfires by focusing on actions that produce heat, sparks, or flames. Additional safety measures include being careful where you build campfires, completely extinguishing campfires with water and being aware of where you park your vehicle. A hot exhaust system or embers from a campfire can result in a very dangerous situation for firefighters and the public. Target shooting in dry grass is also an increasing wildfire cause in

southwest Utah. The use of fireworks and exploding targets are always prohibited on public lands.

Homeowners are encouraged to do their part to reduce wildfire risk by maintaining vegetation around homes. The Spring season is an ideal time for reducing the amount of vegetation around homes and outbuildings. Under favorable conditions, mowers and string trimmers should be used to cut and remove hazardous vegetation before vegetation becomes critically dry.

For more information on preventing unwanted human caused wildfires, visit www.utahfiresense.org, www.utahfireinfo.gov and www.wildlandfire.az.gov or on Twitter @UtahWildfire.

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