



## FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

## NEWS RELEASE

August 20, 2004

Contact: Denise Germann  
406-758-5252  
406-249-1714 cell

### **39 Fire Starts on Flathead National Forest**

The Flathead National Forest has had 39 fire starts this season for approximately 11 acres. Twenty one fires have been human caused and 18 fires started from lightning.

Many of the human-caused fires were abandoned campfires in which agency crews extinguished. Flathead National Forest Public Affairs Officer Denise Germann said, "Campfires are part of the camping experience on the forest, but please remember to be sure they are completely dead out before leaving the area."

Some reminders about campfires include:

- Always have water and a shovel with you when building and enjoying a campfire.
- Drown the fire with water and be sure all embers, coals and sticks are wet. Move any rocks as there may be embers burning underneath.
- Stir the fire, add water and stir again. If water is unavailable, use dirt. Mix dirt or sand with embers and continue until all material is cool to the touch.

To report smoke or a fire, please call 911 or contact the Flathead Interagency Dispatch Center at 758-5260.

-END-