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### **Bureau of Land Management Issues Stage 1 Fire Restrictions.**

BELLE FOURCHE - Because conditions are right for wildland fires, Stage 1 fire restrictions will go into effect in throughout South Dakota at 1 a.m. on Friday, July 21 on all Bureau of Land Management Administered Lands.

Under Stage 1, fires are prohibited except in fire grates within developed recreation sites, and smoking is allowed only in areas cleared of flammable materials. Exemptions include fires fueled solely by liquid petroleum or LPG, or other activities for which there is a permit or written authorization.

An exemption does not absolve an individual or organization from liability or responsibility for any fire started by the exempted activity.

“It doesn’t take much for a fire to get going,” said Terry Chaplin, BLM Fuels Management Specialist. “People need to be aware of how dry it is and do whatever they can to avoid starting a fire.”

Please take extra caution when working and recreating outdoors to prevent wildland fire starts. Anyone who causes a wildland fire intentionally or through negligence will be held accountable for damage and suppression costs.

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Additional restrictions may also exist in certain areas. Before burning such things as slash piles, ditches, or fields, please contact your local fire department or sheriff's office as well as other pertinent agencies for more information and to obtain any necessary permits.

The smallest spark has the potential to cause significant damage, so always crush smokes dead out; never leave a campfire unattended; ensure that your vehicle has a properly installed spark arrester that is operational; stop and park only in areas clear of vegetation; and observe all fire restrictions. Take precautions, but always be prepared: carry a shovel, bucket and fire extinguisher. Also remember that cross country travel is not allowed on Bureau of Land Management administered lands.

For more information about fire prevention, please contact the Bureau of Land Management at (605) 892-7000, or your local fire department or sheriff's office.

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