



Northwest Colorado Fire Management Unit



For Immediate Release
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Fire officials urge caution with spring burning

Moffat County – With high wind forecast for this weekend, fire officials are urging anyone planning any type of outdoor burning in northwest Colorado to use caution. Sustained southwest winds of 15 to 35 miles per hour ahead of a cold front are forecast for Sunday, with gusts up to 40 mph. Winds are expected to shift to a north/northwest flow after the front passes by Monday or Tuesday. Cooler temperatures are expected with the cold front.

Fire has historically been used as a tool this time of year by the agricultural community and property owners to remove refuse, promote grass regeneration, and replenish nutrients to the soil. Conditions are often optimal for burning in early spring, before green-up and spring moisture. But these same spring conditions can lead to hazardous burning conditions.

- **Contact your sheriff's department before burning**
- Be aware of expected weather conditions for your burn day – winds can be erratic this time of year
- Avoid windy and excessively warm and dry days – fire spreads quickly under these conditions
- Advise your neighbors of your plans to burn so they don't panic or call in a false fire report
- Keep a shovel and plenty of water handy to extinguish the fire
- Never leave a fire unattended even for a few minutes
- Dig a fire line or break if there's a chance the fire may not stop where you want
- Visit <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/gjt/> for more weather information

Thank you.

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