

Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor
Sarah Cottrell Propst, Cabinet Secretary
Todd E. Leahy, JD, PhD, Deputy Cabinet Secretary
Laura McCarthy, Forestry Division Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Wendy Mason
Wildfire Prevention and Communications Coordinator
wendy.mason@state.nm.us
505-690-8210

Susan Torres
Public Information Officer, EMNRD
susan.torres@state.nm.us
505-476-3226



July 1, 2021

Wildfire Preparedness is Year-Round:
Spark Celebration this July 4th, Not Wildfire!

Santa Fe, NM – July 1, 2021 – Americans celebrate the signing of the Declaration of Independence on the Fourth of July by participating in popular Independence Day traditions, including fireworks, parades, picnics, barbecues, and recreating on national forests and other public lands. While these pastimes usually make happy memories, if handled irresponsibly, they can put our public lands and communities at risk from human-ignited wildfires – the leading cause of wildfire across New Mexico.

While recent moisture has decreased fire danger, most of New Mexico is still in a long-term drought, and we must all continue using extreme caution. The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) Forestry Division, in cooperation with partners, is asking residents and visitors to please celebrate responsibly and be prepared for wildfire. Continuing our “wildfire preparedness is year-round” campaign, our message for July is *spark celebration, not wildfire*.

Here are a few things to keep in mind on the Fourth of July and beyond:

- Always [check for fire restrictions](#) and closures on public land BEFORE you leave. If you are staying in town, many municipalities have fire restrictions that are not listed in the link above. Be sure to check with your local fire department or government agency for restrictions before building a campfire or lighting fireworks.
- Leave the fireworks to the professionals. Check your local events calendar for a firework display that you can enjoy without contributing to wildfire risk in your area.

A large part of our wildfire preparedness campaign is aimed at homeowners, especially in the wildland-urban interface, helping them prepare for wildfire. July is wildfire season in New

Mexico, and although you may not be lighting off fireworks, your neighbors may have different plans. Enjoy your Independence Day celebration and rest easy by hardening your home to embers and flames.

- [Don't lose your house to a spark gone astray. Clean your gutters and roof to prepare your home for wildfire season and the Fourth of July.](#)
- [Reduce the risk of ember ignition to your house by preparing the 5' zone around your structure.](#)
- [Create defensible space in the 30' zone around your house so that you have a fighting chance to save it in the event of a wildfire.](#)

The [EMNRD Forestry Division](#) is working with the [Forest Stewards Guild](#), [Fire Adapted NM](#), [Cibola, Carson](#), and [Santa Fe National Forests](#), [National Park Service](#), and [Bureau of Land Management New Mexico State Office](#) to build a 2021 wildfire preparedness calendar and share messages across multiple platforms, including social media, webinars and community events. Bookmark the [wildfire preparedness webpage](#) to follow the campaign throughout the year.



###

The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.
<http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us>

JULY 2021

Spark Celebration, Not Wildfire



2021

Wildfire Preparedness Is Year-Round