



# OFFICIAL NEWS RELEASE

MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION  
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[www.mfc.ms.gov](http://www.mfc.ms.gov)

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Statewide Wildland Fire Risk Alert

Jackson, MS – Effective September 30, 2010, the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) is issuing a statewide Wildland Fire Alert. The MFC strongly discourages the public from all burning activities until further notice. Due to the current drought conditions and the predicted weather pattern for the next week, the fire danger rating for the state will be extremely high. Also, the National Weather Service has issued a “Fire Weather Watch” for portions of the state.

The state has experienced little to no rainfall and unseasonably high temperatures over the last several weeks, with some areas breaking records over the next few days. These conditions, combined with the high winds and low humidity expected from the approaching dry cold fronts, create an increase risk for devastating wildland fires. Most of the state’s districts have placed all their personnel “on call” for this weekend to help facilitate rapid deployment to wildland fires. Also, all MFC districts will stop issuing burn permits starting Oct. 1, 2010. Currently there are 21 counties are currently under a burn ban with more expected to join the list by Friday afternoon (Oct. 1). A list of counties currently under a burn ban can be found on our website at [www.mfc.ms.gov](http://www.mfc.ms.gov). Please check back periodically as this list is continuously being updated.

Until the hazardous conditions improve we ask everyone to use caution while doing outdoor activities and to not do any outdoor burning, which includes logging debris, prescribed burning, small brush piles, trash piles, and camp fires. With the opening of the first deer season this weekend, and more people in the forest, we ask that people be cautious of ignition sources, such as discarding cigarette butts. Under these conditions, it only takes one spark to start a devastating wildfire.

If you spot a wildfire, please report it immediately by dialing 911 or you can also contact any of our MFC Dispatch offices directly at their “800” numbers listed in your phone directory with the emergency numbers.

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