

NEWS ADVISORY

USDA Forest Service -- Northern Region



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FIRE INFORMATION SITES AND CONTACTS

There are various ways for members of the media to get up-to-date information about fires in the Northern Rockies area this summer. If you'll look to these avenues in the order of priority listed below, you'll be able to get all the information you're looking for.

Web sites: www.nifc.gov/news/sitreprt.pdf

This site contains the daily situation reports for every *large* fire in the nation. It is updated daily at 5:30 a.m.

www.nifc.gov

This is the site for the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) in Boise. Almost everything you could possibly want to know about wildland fires can be obtained through this site. Many resources are available including a glossary, statistics, maps, fire danger assessments, and links to other fire management agencies and entities.

<http://geomac.usgs.gov/>

This site offers maps of current fires across the nation. You can zero in on particular areas of the nation or the region. This site is best for viewing maps on your screen. The NIFC site has better maps for printing.

www.firewise.org/

This is an excellent site for information on fire prevention and fire hazard mitigation in communities.

Local Forest Information:

www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc

You will be able to find information regarding the situation within the Northern Rockies Geographic Area. Click on the "Daily Summary" button to get a short synopsis of activity in the area.

www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc/wfu.htm

This site will list the "wildland fire use" fires in the geographic area. What are they? **Wildland Fire Use:** The management of naturally ignited (lightning) wildland fires to accomplish specific, pre-stated, resource management objectives in predefined geographic areas outlined in Fire Management Plans. The Northern Region has been using these fires successfully for over 30 years. Currently, there are no new fires for

2003 but you are encouraged to check periodically, especially shortly after a significant lightning storm.

www.fs.fed.us/r1/pgr/fireinfo/index.html

There is a wealth of local information here including phone numbers of local fire offices, links to important sites, current information on any fire use restrictions or area closures, etc. Please contact the nearest National Forest or other fire management agency office for information on fires in your local area. They can give you the best immediate area information. (Please note that some of the links are old.)

www.fs.fed.us/r1/nfp

This site provides a wealth of information on what is happening with the National Fire plan in the Northern Rockies and Intermountain West area. This includes fire preparedness, burned area restoration, hazardous fuels reduction, community assistance and research.

If all else fails:

We have an information phone line in the Northern Region's public affairs office. If you cannot get the information you need by searching the web or by calling a local office, give us a call. We can probably help you with anything else you might need regarding fires and the Forest Service in the northern Rockies. That number is (406) 329-3524.

Thanks and we'll look forward to working with you as the fire season moves along.