

National Forests in Alabama

2946 Chestnut Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36107
(334) 832-4470



News

Miera B. Crawford
Acting Forest Supervisor

www.southernregion.fs.fed.us/alabama

For Immediate Release

Contact: Mary E. Gaines
Public Affairs Officer
334-241-8173

FOREST SERVICE OFFICIALS WANT USERS TO HAVE A FIRE FREE HOLIDAY AND SUMMER IN THE NATIONAL FORESTS

Montgomery, AL – June 30, 2006. USDA Forest Service officials are urging users to be extra careful with fire while recreating in the Alabama’s four national forests.

“Conditions are extremely dry in the forests and any careless act with matches, campfires or grilling could potentially cause a dangerous and hazardous wildfire”, said Miera B. Crawford, acting supervisor for the National Forests in Alabama.

Forest Service officials are reminding users that the law prohibits the discharging or igniting a firecracker, rocket or other firework, or explosive on national forest land.

Crawford said, “We want users to have a good time, but we want them to be responsible and careful during these hot and dry months”.

Other safety tips users are urged to consider when camping, hiking or picnicking include breaking matches in two before discarding them; never leave a campfire unattended and make sure it is DEAD OUT before leaving. Coals should be cool to the touch. Smokers should find a safe place before lighting up and stamp out your smoke in a clean dirt area. Most importantly, everyone is asked to be especially careful with fire when the wind is blowing.

Anyone wanting more information can call the Supervisor's Office Monday through Friday between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. or any one of the six district offices. Those offices are closed on major holidays.

Telephone numbers: Supervisor's Office, 334-832-4470; Bankhead Ranger District, 205-489-5111; Conecuh Ranger District, 334-222-2555; Oakmulgee Ranger District, 205-926-9765; Shoal Creek Ranger District, 256-463-2272; Talladega Ranger District, 256-362-2909; and Tuskegee Ranger District, 334-727-2652.

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