

Moose Lake News by Jim Onarheim

Yes, we got some snow this past weekend but just prior to the snow, due to the COVID-19 Safer at home order, the DNR suspended ALL burning permits & outside burning until further notice. The DNR is taking this proactive measure, to protect the health and safety of Wisconsinites. This prohibits all burning of debris in barrels, debris piles on the ground, and burning grass and wooded areas. Annual burning permits in DNR protection areas are prohibited at this time. If the ground is completely snow-covered and will remain so for the duration of the burn, burning permits are not required and burning is allowed at any time. Campfires, although not recommended, are allowed for cooking and warming purposes. Spring in Wisconsin has the highest fire risk, with debris burning the No. 1 cause of wildfires.

Wildfires pose a serious threat to public safety, property, and the natural resources. People cause more than 98 percent of all wildfires in Wisconsin. Most debris fires occur in the spring after the snow-cover melts and before vegetation greening. In many parts of the state, the DNR requires burning permits to conduct legal and responsible burning in the outdoors. The DNR also requires burning permits to conduct burning of legal materials in DNR fire protection areas when the ground is not completely snow-covered.

DNR burning permits do not apply within incorporated cities and villages. Municipalities often create their own burning permit requirements, and some townships may be more restrictive than state law and not allow any burning. It is up to you to check with your local municipality for their regulations, even if you have obtained a DNR burning permit. For a more detailed look, zoom-in to your location on the burning restrictions map. <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/forestfire/restrictions.html>

Most of us live in the forest, which is an area that can be very explosive this time of year to a wildfire. I was asked to remind everyone again like I have in past years, if you accidentally start a wildfire, you are totally responsible for the cost of extinguishing the fire. This means even if the forest service or the fire department must bring in heavy equipment, you may be charged for all expenses.

Composting is always your better option than burning. It is healthier & safer burning debris on your property. This should always be your last option. But in case you absolutely need to do outside burning please note the following.

In the Moose Lake area, we now will have three locations where a fire danger sign will be posted for your information. Pine Point Rd. & County Hwy S, County Hwy S and Moose Lake Rd. A new location for the third sign is located at the intersection of County Hwy. A and Moose Lake Rd.

These are the different ratings of the different Fire Dangers & the definitions that you could see posted on these signs:

Low: Fires will start from an open flame, spread slowly and in the absence of wind tend to go out. This are the safest times to burn.

Moderate: Fires start from a match or embers. They can spread quickly in dry grass or leaves. Burn with extreme caution!

High: Dangerous conditions. Fires start readily from a match or spark, spread quickly and spot readily. These fires can be very difficult to control. Burning is not recommended.

Very High: This is a very dangerous condition. Fires start easily, spread very rapidly, can cause a crown fire and start many spot fires. These fires are also very difficult to control. Burning is not recommended.

Extreme: This is a very explosive condition. Fires start easily, burn fiercely and start crown fires very readily. These fires are very difficult or impossible to control during the day. Any type of outside burning is not recommended. This also may be declared a Red Flag day. Outside burning is not allowed at all.

Remember: Because of COVID-19 there is a State-Wide burn permit suspension in effect now until further notice. Eliminating ignition sources on the landscape reduces wildfire risk, smoke for vulnerable populations and person-to-person contact. Emergency responders and firefighters have an increased need to take pandemic precautions, so we can remain available to continue to protect the public from wildfires and reduce the spread of COVID-19. Round Lake Fire Dept. including the DNR and all other Sawyer County Firefighters appreciate your patience and understanding.

Birthday greetings this week go out to, Jack Brown on the 16th of April, Jackie Olson the 18th, Marge McCormick on the 19th, Tammy Graham 20th, Chris Graham, Brianne Sanders & Lori Good all on the 21st of April. Happy Birthday to all.

Happy Anniversary to Mike and Linda Seeger on the 18th, Ken & Kathy Brisel 22nd, Daryl & Terra Neibauer 24th, Roger and Faye Winters 25th and Chad and Wendy Olson on the 27th of April. Happy anniversary to all.

Well that is all we have for this week. Remember if you have any news items please give me a call at 715-462-4448 or send it to me by e-mail at jonarheim@centurytel.net so I can include it in the column. Have a great week enjoy the melting snow & ice. Stay safe!