

Moose Lake News by Jim Onarheim

With all the signs of spring, we have to remember that we must be extremely careful with fire at this time of year. I was talking with a friend of mine who is a firefighter from Black River Falls. He said that during the first week in April his department fought 6 grass and wildland fires in their area. I know since then things have slowed down because of the snow that we received last week. This week we are forecasted to have very mild temperatures so our snow should disappear. When that happens the fire danger will perhaps be listed as high and could change daily. The Wisconsin DNR has pointed out that the number one cause of wildland fires in Wisconsin is Debris burning. People must be very careful with any outside burning. Incendiary (arson), trains, equipment use, camp fires, lighting & children playing with matches also account for many fire causes.

Our dead grass and brush are highly flammable during this time of the year. Low humidity that we have during this time contributes to a very dangerous situation. Debris burning is a major problem when people start to clean their property after a long winter.

If you were to use a Burn barrel, you need a ¼ inch mesh screen over the top. In fact, I would like to recommend that you put off any outside burning of any kind until things green up. Burn barrels could be used on a rainy day. Remember, any outside burning requires a permit even after things green up. 2 inches of snow cover is the only exception.

Most of us live in the forest, which is an area that can be very explosive this time of year to a wildfire. I must remind you again that 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 will be put up preferable this week, located at the intersection of County Hwy. A and Moose Lake Rd. or at the Round Lake Town Hall.

The town of Round Lake has approved putting our new sign at the town hall, but firefighters feel the other location would be a better location as far as visibility. There is more traffic going by County Hwy A and Moose Lake Rd. A decision will be made this week on the permanent location.

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 and 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.

The good news is that fires can be prevented, and it is possible to live, work, play safely. If we do live in a fire prone area we can keep our family's and property safe by being proactive and being careful. This is done by understanding the common causes of wildland fires and recognizing when conditions are unsafe for burning outdoors. We can reduce the risk of a wildland fires from starting and spreading by using good common sense.

Keep up to date by watching the Sawyer County Records web-site, listening to the radio and watching for a change on the daily fire danger restrictions posted on your local Fire Danger Signs that are in your area.

I hope this information will help you. In the weeks to come I will have more information on wildland fires based on our weather conditions.

The ice is melting so please keep your pets on a leash until all the ice has melted away from the shore line. We don't want your pet to go onto the ice and perhaps fall through or get trapped on an ice float where they can not get back to shore. The Round Lake Fire Department did have a call last year for a pet rescue. These pets are part of our family. Keep them safe.

Birthday wishes this week, go out to Mike Seeger and Jackie Olson both on April 18th, Marge McCormick on the 19th, Tammy Graham on the 20th, Chris Graham, Brianne Sanders and Lori Good all on the 21st and Howard Lueschen's birthday is on the 22nd of April.

There are 3 anniversaries this week. Mike and Linda Seeger on the 18th Ken & Kathy Brisel on the 22nd and Daryl & Terra Neibauer on April 24th.

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

For information on the Town of Round Lake Government go to their web-site at <http://www.townofroundlakewi.org>. For Moose Lake Improvement Association (MLIA) information, view their web-site at <https://mliahaywardwi.org>