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Drought Cycle General Information

During drought conditions, property owners should restrict open burning and take steps to minimize potential ignition sources. Please check for local burn bans or restrictions before conducting any open burning. Do not use flammable liquids such as gasoline, kerosene to start the fire. Do not leave any fires unattended and have a means of quickly extinguishing the fire should wind or other conditions change.

During periods of drought, citizens should check for and observe “Red Flag Warnings” issued by the National Weather Service (NWS), state Fire Marshal’s Office, or local fire agencies or jurisdictions. Red Flag Warnings & Fire Weather Watches inform fire agencies and the public to the onset, or possible onset, of critical weather and fuel moisture conditions that could lead to rapid or dramatic increases in wildfire activity.

Drought conditions may also affect the available water supply for use in firefighting. Some rural area fire departments depend on “dry hydrants” that are used to access standing bodies of water such as ponds and rivers. When water levels decline due to drought conditions, these water access points may not be useable.

During the fourth of July or other holidays, citizens should be aware of local ordinances in their communities regarding the use or restriction of fireworks. During drought conditions fireworks have a significant potential to start grass and wildland fires and endanger the community if proper precautions are not followed.