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## **Fire Prevention Urged This Holiday Weekend**

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**Fort Collins, Colo. (July 2, 2008)** - Local fire management agencies ask everyone to help prevent wildfires while enjoying the Fourth of July weekend.

Moisture from spring rains is long gone from the forest, leaving tall vegetation in its wake. Recent hot, dry weather has dried out this vegetation, especially at lower elevations, resulting in an abundance of light, flashy fuels that are ready to burn.

There currently are no fire restrictions in Larimer County beyond standard, area-specific regulations. Before heading to your favorite recreation area, please check local regulations and be aware that situations can change quickly.

Firefighters will actively patrol the forest over the holiday weekend. Visitors to the forest can help them by preventing wildfires from ever starting. Unattended campfires, sparks from vehicle exhaust, tossed cigarettes and fireworks can all start wildfires. For this reason, it is illegal to leave a campfire unattended or use fireworks on public lands. Penalties may include a mandatory appearance in federal court, up to \$5,000 in fines and/or six months in jail.

While celebrating our nation's freedom, please protect our local treasures—do not leave campfires unattended, park vehicles in areas free of tall grass and remember that fireworks are not allowed on public lands.

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*Note:* In Larimer County, please report fireworks to the non-emergency number 970-416-1985.