



**News Release \* News Release \* News Release**

## **Holiday Weekends Approaching; Fire Prevention Urged**

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**Fort Collins, Colo. (June 29, 2007)** - Local fire management agencies ask everyone to help prevent wildfires while enjoying the upcoming holiday weekends.

Larimer County has experienced six wildfires in the last two weeks. Two of these were human caused fires on the Canyon Lakes Ranger District. The largest of the six was the Greyrock Fire, which grew to three acres before being contained. Although crews are keeping these fires from growing large, there is potential each time a fire starts. The public can help us by always being careful with campfires.

There has been an increasing number of abandoned campfires this year and recreators are urged to make sure their fire is completely extinguished before leaving an area. Make sure not to build fires under low hanging branches or near brush and grass. Although there has been some spotty precipitation in the mountains, fine fuels like grasses and pine needles can dry out quickly in wind and hot temperatures.

There is an abundance of tall, dry grasses at lower elevations. Catalytic converters on the underside of vehicles can get very hot and cause fires, just as one caused the Big Elk Fire in 2002. Make sure not to park in tall grass to avoid this threat.

There are currently no fire restrictions in place in Larimer County beyond standard, area specific regulations. But, as always, the use of fireworks is prohibited on public lands. Please make sure to check local regulations and know that situations can change quickly.

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.