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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Montezuma County Board of County Commissioners has reinstated the fire ban in all unincorporated areas of Montezuma County as of June 16, 2021 at 6:00am.

The majority of Montezuma County is in extreme drought and fire fuels are at record low moisture levels. Combined with current and predicted hot, dry weather, these conditions have created a critical fire environment. With the support of county fire chiefs, Sheriff Steve Nowlin recommended the fire ban be reinstated throughout the county.

Ordinance 2-2015 prohibits open fires and the use of fireworks.

“An ‘open fire’ is any fire in an outdoor location where fuel is being burned except for the following:

- Commercial enclosed incinerators.
- Residential charcoal and gas barbeque grills.
- Welding and/or operating an acetylene or similar torch with an open flame related to oil and gas production shall be allowed when conducted in a 20-foot radius safe zone free of vegetation and when complying with the requirements of the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission Rule 606A(o) regarding Fire Prevention and Production.
- Welding and/or operating an acetylene or similar torch with an open flame, except that, as long as a fire watch individual is on site and readily available with proper hand tools and either one 2.5 gallon pressurized fire extinguisher, one 5 pound ABC extinguisher, or pressurized water supply, welding and/or operating an acetylene or similar torch with an open flame in a 20-foot radius safe zone free of vegetation is not prohibited.
- Burn barrels equipped with ¼ inch screen shall be allowed when conducted in a 20-foot radius safe zone free of vegetation.”

Fire restrictions have also been enacted by neighboring counties, municipalities, and federal agencies. Always check restrictions and when in doubt, err on the side of caution.

Wildfire risk is an imminent danger and restrictions will be enforced. Violations of the Montezuma County fire ban may be punishable by a fine of up to \$1000.

The full text of Montezuma County Ordinance 2-2015 can be found on the county website at www.montezumacounty.org under “Public Notices.” For more information, please contact the Montezuma County Sheriff’s Office at (970) 565-8452.

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