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Department of
Natural Resources

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STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

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Dry conditions halt permitted burns in Kenai Peninsula and Mat-Su

(Anchorage, AK) – Warming temperatures and increasingly dry conditions have increased wildland fire danger on the Kenai Peninsula and Matanuska-Susitna valleys, prompting the Division of Forestry to halt permitted burning effective today.

The division is suspending burn permits for all areas of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and the Kenai Peninsula Borough, where the combination of hot, dry and windy weather will quickly outweigh the fire-dampening effects of recent rain and increase the chances of expanding, wind-driven surface fires.

Both small- and large-scale burn permits are suspended in both regions until conditions moderate. Debris/brush burning and the use of burn barrels is prohibited during a burn suspension. Fires used for property clean-up are considered burn piles and are likewise prohibited. Failure to comply with emergency burn suspensions could result in monetary fines.

Small campfires less than three feet in diameter with flame lengths no higher than two feet are still allowed during a burn suspension. Commercially manufactured burning devices such as grills, smokers, turkey friers, etc. with an on-off switch are also allowed during a burn permit suspension. However, those conducting such burns are encouraged to exercise vigilance and caution.

The division encourages the public to check previously burned debris piles to ensure those fires are completely extinguished and no heat remains. Fire can continue to burn underground through duff layers and roots systems for months, only to resurface and spark a wildfire.

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