March 27, 2020

Hi Folks,

In an effort to reduce fire occurrences and exposure of our first responders to COVID-19, the DNR is cancelling burning permits in DNR protection areas across the state effective March 27, 2020. While this does not apply to the Co-op areas of the state, I wanted to let you know in case your area typically follows suit with the DNR as far as burning regulations go.

I’ve attached some talking points and reasoning behind the decision that you may find useful in answering questions or making your own burning permit decisions going forward.  Hopefully you find them useful.  Like everyone, we are acting out of an abundance of caution and trying to limit opportunities for wildland fires to start across the state while trying to maintain operational readiness  One step we have taken as an agency is to not conduct prescribed burns on our DNR properties until conditions improve.  By doing these things we can focus on emergency response to fires, and natural disasters that we can’t predict.

As conditions change we will continue to evaluate the need to increase/decrease fire regulations in order to maintain the safety of first responders and the public across the state.  Please let me know if you have any questions or need clarification on anything.  Stay safe out there!

**Highlights**

**Annual Burning Permits**

* All annual DNR burning permits [Form 4300-125], both electronically and written in-person, will not be issued
* All burning in barrels, debris piles on the ground and grass or wooded acres with annual burning permits is suspended
* Cease all issuance of annual written or electronic burning permits

**Special Burning Permits**

* Special burning permits will be allowed for the following limited scenarios:
* Agricultural site prep burns conducted prior to planting
* Burn piles for clearing land for **time-sensitive** development/agricultural purposes or in ROWs

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