

# Red Flag Warning

## WHAT IS A RED FLAG WARNING?

A red flag warning is a forecast warning issued by the National Weather Service (NOAA) to inform the public, firefighters, and land management agencies that conditions are ideal for wildland fire combustion, and rapid spread, during drought conditions, when humidity is very low, and especially when there are high or erratic winds which may include lightning as a factor.

## WHAT IS A BURNING RESTRICTION VS BURNING BAN?

Burning restrictions are implemented in response to fire danger. As fire danger increases, burning restrictions are increased. Since almost 70% of Minnesota wildfires occur in April and May, private land debris burning is often limited for a period of 2-4 weeks generally referred to as "Spring Burning Restrictions." During this period, general burning permits cannot be activated but some types of open burning such as prescribed fire may be allowed. On federal land, "fire restrictions" are used to prohibit the use of fire including campfires.

A burning ban is a rare event declared for periods of extreme weather or when widespread fires are seriously stretching firefighting resources. When a burning ban is declared, it prohibits open air fires and other activities that may start a fire. The ban includes all open air fires for the purpose of cooking or recreational fires. It also includes incinerators, welding, grinding, soldering, glass cutting and even smoking outdoors. On private or state land, only the Minnesota DNR Commissioner can issue a burning ban.

### MN DNR Forestry Tower Office:

(Burning restrictions, permitting and Fire Danger)

650 Hwy 169 Tower, MN 218-300-7800

[dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/firerating\\_restrictions.html](http://dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/firerating_restrictions.html)

# Campfire Safety

## WHILE BURNING:

CLEAR THE AREA 5 FEET AROUND FIRE OF ANY COMBUSTIBLE MATERIALS

USE A DESIGNATED FIRE RING OR BUILD IT IN THE CLEARED AREA

CAMPFIRES MUST BE 3 FEET OR LESS IN DIAMETER AND NOT MORE THAN 3 FEET IN HEIGHT

KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON THE FIRE AT ALL TIMES

BE PREPARED TO EXTINGUISH FIRE IF IT GETS OUT OF CONTROL BY HAVING A BUCKET AND SHOVEL

## BEFORE YOU BURN:

Follow campfire restrictions and bans. Check [dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/firerating\\_restrictions.html](http://dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/firerating_restrictions.html)

**CAMPFIRES ARE THE LEADING HUMAN CAUSE OF WILDFIRES**

## WHEN YOU ARE DONE WITH THE FIRE:

DROWN THE FIRE WITH AMPLE WATER TO MAKE SURE IT IS COMPLETELY EXTINGUISHED

ADD DIRT AND STIR

FEEL OVER THE FIRE TO MAKE SURE NO HEAT IS STILL COMING OFF THE AREA

# Wildfire Safety and Preparation

*for Vacation Renters*

Funding provided by MN DNR Firewise, Dovetail Partners, Inc. and St. Louis County Emergency Management





## Evacuation Checklists

### INSIDE

- Confine pets for quick evacuation.
- Dress to prevent burns: long sleeves, cotton, eye glasses or goggles, dry bandana, sturdy shoes.
- Close all windows and interior doors.
- Turn on lights to make your home visible to firefighters.

### OUTSIDE

- Locate the keys and park your vehicle facing outward.
- Place important items in vehicle; valuables, personal items and clothing, prescriptions, eye-glasses, cell-phone & charger.
- Move deck furniture inside or away from home.
- Shut off propane—move combustibles into open area.

### EVACUATE

- As soon as you can, leave the area away from the fire. Do not waste time taking photos and videos of the fire.
- Check in with emergency personnel as soon as possible to let them know you have evacuated.

### IF EVACUATION IS BLOCKED, SHELTER IN PLACE

- Shelter away from outside walls and stay hydrated.
- Place wet towels under outside doors.
- Patrol for spot fires in home, attic, and on roof and around home after the flame front has passed.
- Ensure you can exit your home if it catches fire. If it is hot inside, it is 4-5 times hotter outside.

### TO-GO BAG ESSENTIALS: WHAT TO WEAR:

- Important documents (bank, IRS, trust, investment, insurance policy, birth certificates, medical records)
  - ATM, credit and debit cards
  - Medications
  - Prescription glasses
  - Driver's license
  - Passport
  - Computer backup files
  - Inventory of home contents (consider making a video inventory now, prior to an emergency)
  - Photographs of the exterior of the house and landscape
  - Address book
  - Cell phone charger
  - Personal toiletries
  - Enough clothing for 3-5 days
  - Family heirlooms, photo albums and videos.
- Wear only cotton or wool clothes, including long pants, long-sleeved shirt or jacket, a hat, and boots.
  - Carry gloves, a handkerchief to cover your face, water to drink, and goggles.
  - Keep your cell phone, a flashlight, and portable radio with you at all times.
  - Tune in to a local radio station and listen for instructions.

### PREPARE VEHICLE:

- If possible, disconnect the electric garage door opener and place vehicle in the garage pointing out with the keys in the ignition. If you cannot disengage the opener, park in your driveway facing out.
- Roll up the car windows.
- Close the garage door, but leave it unlocked.
- Place essential items in the car.
- If you do not drive, make other arrangements for transportation in advance.

### PREPARE FAMILY MEMBERS, PETS, AND LIVESTOCK:

- If possible, evacuate all family members not essential to preparing the house for wildfire.
- Plan several evacuation routes from your home.
- Designate a safe meeting place and contact person.
- Relay your plans to a contact person.
- Evacuate pets and livestock whenever possible and never turn the animals loose.
- Notify your local Humane Society or other organizations for assistance with animals if needed.
- Be aware of your emergency notification system such as reverse 911.

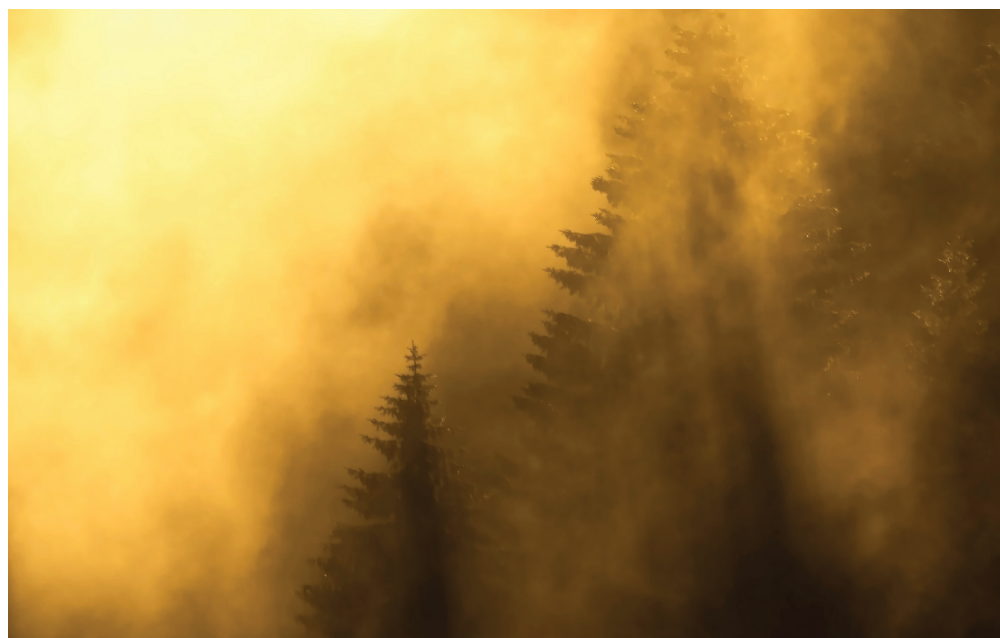
### INSIDE THE HOME:

- Close all interior doors.
- Leave a light on in each room.
- Remove lightweight, non-fire-resistant curtains and other combustible materials from around windows.
- Close fire-resistant drapes, shutters, and blinds.

- Turn off all pilot lights.
- Move overstuffed furniture, such as couches and easy chairs, to the center of the room.
- Close fireplace damper.
- Close or block off any doggie-doors.

### OUTSIDE THE HOME:

- Place combustible patio furniture in the house or garage.
- Shut off propane at the tank or natural gas at the meter.
- Close all exterior vents, doors, and windows.
- Prop a noncombustible ladder against the house to provide firefighters with easy access to the roof.
- Make sure that all garden hoses are connected to faucets and attach nozzles set on "spray".
- Leave exterior doors and gates unlocked.
- Turn on outside lights.
- If available and if there's time, cover windows, attic openings, and vents with plywood that is at least one-half inch thick.
- Fill trash cans and buckets with water and place where firefighters can find them.



*This content was adapted from "Wildfire Evacuation Checklist FS06-07", with permission from University of Nevada Cooperative Extension and the Living With Fire Program.*



## **Phone Numbers and Websites:**

When there is an ACTIVE Emergency, Please tune into **WELY at 94.5 FM**

***ANY LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCY CALL 911***

### **Ely Area Sheriff's Dept**

209 E Chapman St. Ely, MN 55731

Phone: 218-726-2340

### **Homeland Security & Emergency Management / St. Louis County:**

[www.stlouiscountymn.gov/departments-a-z/sheriff/emergency](http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/departments-a-z/sheriff/emergency)

Register For St. Louis County Emergency notifications at  
[Northlandalert.com](http://Northlandalert.com); [member.everbridge.net/453003085616005/login](http://member.everbridge.net/453003085616005/login)

### **Lake County:**

[www.co.lake.mn.us/emergency-management/](http://www.co.lake.mn.us/emergency-management/)

Register for Lake County Emergency notification systems  
[member.everbridge.net/453003085619442/login](http://member.everbridge.net/453003085619442/login)

### **Area Emergency Radio Stations**

WELY 94.5 FM/ 1450 AM

KAXE 103.9 FM

### **American Red Cross / Northern Minnesota**

2524 Maple Grove Rd

Duluth, MN

218-722-0071

[www.redcross.org/local/minnesota.html](http://www.redcross.org/local/minnesota.html)

### **National Weather Service (NOAA) Duluth, MN**

[www.weather.gov/dlh/](http://www.weather.gov/dlh/)

[www.weather.gov/safety/wildfire](http://www.weather.gov/safety/wildfire)

### **Minnesota Incident Command System**

[mnics.org/wpress/left-sidebar-menu/services/fuels-fire-danger/](http://mnics.org/wpress/left-sidebar-menu/services/fuels-fire-danger/)

### **Mesabi Humane Society**

[www.mesabihumanesociety.org/](http://www.mesabihumanesociety.org/) 218-741-7425

## Local Fire Departments:

**Ely Fire Department** 209 East Chapman St Ely, MN 55731

**Morse Fall Lake Fire Department** 1371 Grant McMahan Blvd Ely, MN 55731

**Eagle's Nest Fire Department** 1552 Bear Head State Park Rd Ely, MN 55731

**Babbitt Fire Department** 71 North Drive Babbitt, MN 55706

**Brush Disposal Sites:** ONLY for woody debris less than 6" diameter and less than 4' long.

## St. Louis County:

Northwoods Transfer Station 9384 Hwy 21 N, Ely 218-365-4800

Soudan Canister Site 5160 Hwy 169 Tower/Soudan 218-753-6052

County 77 Canister Site 2038 Co. Rd. 77 Tower 218-753-8074

Grassy Lake Brush Disposal Site: On the Grassy Lake Rd / FR. 457 ≈6 miles in

## Lake County:

Ojibway Brush Disposal Site: Follow Fernberg Trail to Summer Homes Rd, 1st left

Moose Lake Brush Disposal Site: Fernberg Trail to Moose Lake Rd, ≈1 mi on the left

Bandana Lake Brush Disposal Site: Go South on Hwy 1 to Bandana Lake Rd, 1st left

## SEVERE WEATHER INFORMATION *IS IT A WATCH OR IS IT A WARNING?*

A watch is intended to provide lead time for those who need to set their plans in motion. A watch means that hazardous weather is possible in and close to the watch area.

A warning means that weather conditions pose a threat to life or property; people in the path of the hazard need to take protective action.

These terms are used for Thunderstorms, Flashfloods, Fire Weather and Winter Storms.

## Stay informed:

When severe weather threatens, tune in to a NOAA Weather Radio or tune into WELY 94.5 FM on a battery-powered radio for updates.

A high wind advisory means that sustained winds of over 25 miles per hour are predicted.

## Find Shelter:

When severe winds occur, move to the middle of your home or basement, away from windows and glass doors.

Try to take cover under a staircase or a heavy piece of furniture.

Do not stay in a manufactured home during severe winds. They are easily overturned by high winds, and flying debris can puncture their light frames and exteriors.

If you live in an area prone to severe winds, you may want to build a safe room in your home. A safe room is an area of your home that has been reinforced to provide protection from broken glass and flying debris.