**PRESS RELEASE**
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Kick Off to Vermont's Wildland Fire Season:
Daily Updates and Prevention Efforts

Montpelier, VT – Vermont’s wildland fire season is now underway. The Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation’s (FPR) Wildland Fire Program is geared up to provide daily updates and seasonal tips to Vermonters to keep them informed about fire danger risks and to help them prevent wildfires in their community.

Wildland fires, which include grass, brush, and forest fires, are a particular concern in the spring and fall; however, fires can occur anytime.

Already this year, several wildland fires have been reported. These early fires serve as a reminder of the ongoing threat and the need for continued vigilance.

Burning debris is the leading cause of wildfires, underscoring the critical importance of proactive measures. In 2023 there were 63 wildfires in Vermont; all were caused by human activity.

“Monitoring wildfire activity is crucial,” says FPR Commissioner Danielle Fitzko. “It helps protect lives and property and allows communities to respond effectively to changing conditions. Vermonters play an important role in preventing wildland fires by practicing fire safety and following open burning regulations.”

Please remember to:

* **Sign up** for [daily fire danger alerts](https://anrweb.vt.gov/FPR/vtFPR/FireDangerSubscribe.aspx).
* **Check the latest activity** at the [Wildland Fire Situation Update](https://fpr.vermont.gov/wildfire-situation).
* **Consider alternatives** to open burning such as chipping or composting.
* **Avoid burning garbage**, including paper, cardboard, tires, plywood, pressboard, asphalt shingles, plastics, and treated wood. Burning trash is prohibited.
* **Get a permit** by contacting your [Town Forest Fire Warden](https://anrweb.vt.gov/FPR/vtFPR/FireWardenDirectory.aspx). Permits are required for burning legal materials such as tree limbs and branches.
* **Clear flammable materials** around homes and properties.
* **Never leave a fire unattended**.
* **Report wildfires** immediately by calling 911.

Learn more about [Vermont’s Wildland Fire Program](https://fpr.vermont.gov/wildland).

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Disasters can hit, and recovery can feel impossible. But there is nothing stronger than the support Vermonters provide each other. The Agency of Natural Resources stands with the community during challenging times.

* Call 211 for free local support, including mental health services.
* Find resources and referrals at [Vermont.Gov/Flood](https://www.vermont.gov/flood#gsc.tab=0).
* Raise money for Vermonters impacted by flood damage with [*Vermont Strong* and *Tough Too* license plates and socks](https://vt.accessgov.com/dmv/Forms/Page/dmv/vtstrong/1).