



News Release

TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Seth Ross, Asst. Forest Fire Management Officer
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Please be safe with wildland fire this summer season

Forest Service fire management experts offer safety guidelines

JUNEAU, Alaska—Please help us to prevent human-caused fires this Summer Season. Roughly 93% of the wildfires across Southeast Alaska are human-caused and, therefore, preventable. It is important to exercise caution with your recreational fires as you enjoy the Tongass National Forest.

The warmer summer season traditionally leads to a number of new wildfires that are accidentally or negligently started by escaped campfires, fireworks, all-terrain/off-road vehicle use, spring debris burning/yard clean up, target shooting, and other activities. Weather conditions throughout much of Southeast Alaska can become relatively hot and dry, which makes the rainforest vegetation more prone to wildfire potential and spread.

Whenever dry conditions and high fire danger are present please be cautious with or avoid any activity that could start an unwanted fire. Make sure campfires are completely extinguished, use fireworks carefully and only where legal, and adhere to burn permit regulations. If you do build a campfire, make sure tools and water are available, do not leave the fire unattended, and properly dispose of all smoking materials.

Thank you for your attention and please feel free to contact Troy Hagan, Forest Fire Management Officer, (907) 743-9435 or Seth Ross, Assistant Forest Fire Management Officer, (907) 945-1204 if you have any questions.

Have a great summer season and enjoy the woods!

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