

Good fires help prevent bad ones

March is Mississippi Wildfire Prevention Month

Press Release
In late February, Governor Tate Reeves issued a proclamation naming March as “Wildfire Prevention Month” in Mississippi.
Over the last decade, March has one of the highest wildfire occurrence rates of the year due to the transition from winter to spring, dry vegetation and windy days. In fact, the first two days of March this year saw more than 25 wildfires that burned over 2,220 acres across the state.
“Human error and carelessness is the primary cause of wildfires in Mississippi,” said Russell Bozeman, Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) state forester. “When using fire, we ask that people burn responsibly and take the proper precautions to prevent the fire from becoming a wildfire.”
Whether it’s not burning on windy days or choosing a safe burn site, Mississippians can help reduce the chance of wildfire by taking care when burning outdoors.
For tips on how you can help prevent wildfires, visit PreventWildfiresMS.com.
There is also another tool available to the MFC and landowners to help reduce

the risk of catastrophic wildfires – prescribed fire.
Prescribed fire, also known as a controlled burn, refers to the controlled application of fire by a team of fire experts under specified weather conditions that helps restore health to fire-adaptive environments.
“Prescribed fire is one of the most effective forest management tools the MFC has,” Bozeman said. “Additionally, prescribed fire, when properly applied to a landscape, can significantly reduce the chance of catastrophic wildfires.”
Prescribed fire safely reduces excessive amounts of brush, shrubs and trees from the understory. By having a prescribed fire plan for their property, landowners continuously reduce the amount of fuel available should a wildfire start. Less fuel means less chance of a wildfire reaching a catastrophic level.
“Wildfire prevention requires a multifaceted approach, and it takes everyone working together,” said Bozeman. “The MFC uses prescribed fire as a way to help reduce the chance of large scale wildfires, but we also ask the public to use extreme caution when burning outside.”
For more information about prescribed fire, visit mfc.ms.gov/prescribed-fire. For additional wildfire prevention tips, like and follow @MSForestryComm on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

*Courts prompted

(Continued from page 1.)
chances of transmission of the disease.

2. Individual judges have discretion to control their general dockets and are authorized to instruct their clerks that jury summonses may not be sent to jurors which would be returnable to any date prior to May 18, 2020.
3. Individual judges have the discretion to postpone any trials on their own docket scheduled through May 15, 2020.
4. Parties, jurors, attorneys, and witnesses who have traveled to areas with confirmed coronavirus cases shall contact the clerk of the court by telephone before coming to that court. Those who have been diagnosed with the virus or who are primary caregivers for a vulnerable person who has been diagnosed with the virus shall contact the clerk of the court by telephone. The aforementioned shall not come to the courthouse before speaking with court personnel.
5. Each judge conducting drug intervention courts is authorized to modify the scheduling of drug testing and home-supervision visits for the next 60 days as they see fit.
All other portions of the first Emergency Administrative Order that have not been amended or modified by this Order remain in full force and effect.
It is the Judiciary’s responsibility to ensure constitutional rights are protected during this national emergency. This Order may be amended, extended, or otherwise modified as circumstances dictate.
SO ORDERED.
Michael K. Randolph,
Chief Justice

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