

# Utah Interagency Fire Information

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## NEWS RELEASE

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## Fireworks Caused Fires Prompt Warnings

Salt Lake City, Utah – With numerous wildfires occurring in the past few weeks, fire officials are concerned about what the rest of the summer has in store. Several fireworks-caused wildfires have ignited along Utah's benches, foothills and desert areas. The recent fires combined with the hot, dry conditions expected for the weekend have made fireworks a major concern. State and Federal land managers are issuing a clear warning that fireworks use is illegal on all federal and state land.

Campfires, vehicle use, target shooting and other outdoor activities present a fire risk as well. Caution and preparation are both keys to avoiding disaster. Wildfires often take people by surprise in how quickly they start and grow, and according to fire officials, one often-overlooked aspect is preparedness. A shovel, extra water, fire extinguisher and a phone are tools that will help contain a fire if it starts. Be prepared to deal with a fire and call 911 immediately for quick response from firefighters.

Sheldon Wimmer, BLM Utah Fire Management Officer, said, "Sometimes it is easy to forget that people can start fires without even realizing it. All that is needed is a small spark from a campfire left unattended, fireworks in grasslands, or even vehicles driven through a grassy area. The season is upon us so we are asking the public to be especially careful when visiting state and federal lands".

Remember, safety is everybody's priority, and a little preparation can go a long way. You may be held liable for the cost of suppressing a wildfire, rehabilitation of the land, and damages to property if you do start a wildfire.

For more information on fire conditions and prevention, visit [UtahFireInfo.gov](http://UtahFireInfo.gov).

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