

Wildfire Report for May 10, 2012

Widespread precipitation has kept the fire danger Low to Moderate statewide over the past week. In DNR protection areas, 9 wildfires burned 4 acres and one structure was threatened. The largest was a 2.3-acre Chippewa County grass fire which started when a debris pile, ignited in the morning, continued to burn throughout the day and escaped during the early afternoon. This time of year, as vegetation greens up, people often become complacent and conduct their burning projects during the day instead of following the time restrictions on burning permits. In DNR protection areas, if you do choose to conduct outdoor burning remember that a free annual burning permit is required to burn small piles of debris and to burn in a burn barrel. You must check the daily burning restrictions every day you intend to burn by calling 1-888-WIS-BURN (947-2876) or by checking online at dnr.wi.gov (search 'burn'). Larger piles and daytime burning require a special permit from a DNR Ranger. Piling your debris in a campfire pit does not make it okay to burn during the day. If your property is outside a DNR protection area, check with local officials for burning restrictions.

As the vegetation dries out during the days we don't receive rain, expect fire danger to increase, particularly in areas where standing dead grass and other dry vegetation remains.

Emergency Burning Restrictions are still in effect in the footprint of the storm damaged area in northwest Wisconsin. Signs are posted to remind area residents and visitors to be extra careful.

Firewise Tip: Homeowners are encouraged to make weekly checks around your home or cabin for wind blown leaves and needles on your roof, around your foundation, and under decks and elevated porches; keep these areas clean. The debris that collects in these places could be easily ignited by flying embers produced during a wildfire.