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**Press Release**



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**HOW YOU CAN HELP WITH CURRENT FIRE SITUATION**

(PALMER, Alaska)— With the current wild land fire situation, many Alaskan’s want to know how they can help. With resources being stretched thin, the best thing we can do is not put ourselves into situations that require the intervention of emergency services. Many of the state’s emergency personnel are trained in several disciplines, including wildland fires. When they are needed for another incident, such as a structure fire or automobile accident, it takes time and energy needed elsewhere. Following are ways to help minimize taking resources from large incidents:

- Cooperate with all emergency personnel regarding evacuations and traffic. If you do not it may require them to initiate a rescue later, again using up valuable resources. When asked, get out and stay out.
- Privately owned aircraft need to stay away from these restricted fire incidents. Other, unnecessary aircraft interfere with tanker and helicopter suppression efforts and possibly medical transport aircraft.
- Use common sense and practicing fire safety at all times, especially as it pertains to any outside burning: Safe Barbeque practices such as keeping it clean and well away from other combustibles. Never leave a Barbeque, warming or cooking fire unattended or in the hands of children.

The link below will take you to the “Burning in Alaska” and Burn Permit Program. This is where you learn about more safe burning practices and if there is a burn restriction, suspension or closure. It is also wise to check with your local fire department.

<http://forestry.alaska.gov/burn/>

**REMEMBER: FIRE SAFETY IS EVERYONE’S RESPONSIBILITY**

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