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Chadrad Communications, Inc.
226 Bordeaux St - Chadron, NE 69337
308-432-5545 fax 308-432-5601
E-mail: kcsr@chadrad.com

(S.D.)-Forest Service Offers Tips On Fireworks Safety



By: Chris Fankhauser Posted at: 07/01/2013 11:48 AM

(Custer)-With Independence Day just around the corner, the Black Hills National Forest wants to remind visitors and campers that fireworks are prohibited on the Black Hills National Forest and within the Black Hills Fire Protection District.

Possessing, discharging or using any kind of fireworks or pyrotechnic devices is prohibited on all National Forests and National Grasslands within the Rocky Mountain Region year-round, regardless of weather conditions or holidays.

Violating a Forest Service special order is a misdemeanor and punishable by a fine of up to \$5,000 or up to six months in jail or both.

Forest officials say that wet forests can dry quickly and fires can still burn within just a few days after significant amounts of rain.

Even in areas with light fuels, fire danger exists in the form of grass and twigs that lose their moisture content quickly when the sun comes out and the wind picks up.

As a reminder, open fire is not allowed within the Black Hills Fire Protection District, except in established metal fire rings or grills that are in designated sites within a developed campground, recreation area or picnic ground. Charcoal grills, stoves, lanterns, or heating devices may be used, provided such devices meet safety specifications.

Campfires are allowed in undeveloped areas in the Wyoming portion of the Black Hills. Before building a campfire, please clear all nearby vegetation and establish a campfire ring. In developed campgrounds, campfires are only allowed in designated fire grates. Forest visitors are also reminded to ensure that all camp fires are extinguished and cold to the touch before leaving them. The Black Hills National Forest wishes everyone a safe Fourth of July.

For more information on the Black Hills National Forest, visit www.fs.usda.gov/blackhills.

(Information Courtesy Black Hills National Forest)