



Montezuma County Sheriff's Office

Steven D. Nowlin – Sheriff

730 East Driscoll Street
Cortez, Colorado 81321
Dolores Substation
601 Central Avenue
Dolores, Colorado 81323

Telephone 970 / 565-8452
Fax 970 / 565-3731
www.montezumasheriff.org

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

Date: March 1, 2026

To: Montezuma County Residents and Visitors

Subject: Wildfire Prevention Needed

The Open Fire Ban in Montezuma County under Ordinance Number 02-2015 requires that our citizens and visitors be cautious and responsible with open fires, and maintain control of all fires to prevent them from becoming out of control.

Any and all planned control burning requires the property owner or agent to call our Cortez Communication Center at (970) 565-8454, BEFORE you burn to verify that no Red Flag Weather or High Wind Warnings have been or will be posted for the day of a controlled burn.

Everyone can help keep our County and Communities safe by following some simple fire rules:

- Watch the weather reports and do not burn on any high fire danger days
- Contact your local fire district or the county sheriff for how to prepare a controlled burn for safety
- Having your fire district inspect your planned burn ahead of time will ensure safety
- Keep controlled burn piles small that would allow for shorter burning time
- Planning a burn to start during early morning hours while temperatures are cooler
- Have a minimum 20 foot diameter area cleared of any vegetation around controlled burn pile
- Burning in a pit at least three foot in depth will help control ash and burning embers
- Have a fire mitigation plan that includes hand tools, shovels, plenty of water, fire extinguisher, etc.
- Keep the fire under control at all times
- Do not leave the fire unattended
- Make sure your fire is dead out when completed

All Fireworks that explode or leave the ground are prohibited by Colorado State Law.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance

Steven D. Nowlin, Sheriff
Montezuma County, Colorado