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### **For Immediate Release**

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### **Help avoid unnecessary response by following proper controlled burn procedures**

Mandan, N.D. – The last two evenings, Mandan Rural Fire was dispatched for what turned out to be controlled burns. We understand that more people are choosing to open burn at this time of year; however, it is important to follow proper procedures when doing controlled or open burning.

The following procedures are to ensure that open burning is coordinated with the proper authorities for maximum safety to both people and property.

1. Check with your Fire Chief for the Fire District where you desire to conduct open burning.
2. Contact the Morton County Law Enforcement Center at 701-667-3405 before a controlled burn is started so that emergency responders are not dispatched for reports of fire, when in fact it is a controlled burn. Be prepared to give your name, contact number, location of the controlled burn and anticipated duration of the burn. After the burning is completed and the fire is out, contact the Law Enforcement Center again at 667-3405 to inform them of the completion.
3. Controlled burns need to be physically manned and monitored at all times. Once the fire has been started, do not leave the site unattended until the fire is completely out.
4. Be prepared if the fire gets out of hand! Call 9-1-1 immediately and have resources available to mitigate the effects (e.g. tractor, digger, shovels, etc.).

“Someone will see smoke or fire miles away as they’re driving down the highway so they’ll call in and we will respond. But it is costly to the county to have a bunch of firefighters show up for something that could have been avoided by a simple phone call to make us and law enforcement aware of the controlled burn,” said Mandan Rural Fire Department Chief Lynn Gustin.

The public is encouraged to review the North Dakota Fire Danger Guide. This can be found at <https://www.nd.gov/des/uploads/resources/154/fire-danger-guide-web-pdf.pdf>.

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