



Media Contact:

Justin Caporusso
Public Information Manager
Mono County
jcaporusso@mono.ca.gov
916-412-0571

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Mono County Board of Supervisors Adopts Urgency Ordinance
Prohibiting Open Fires on Private Property and Closing County Campgrounds**

MONO COUNTY, Calif. (September 8, 2020) – Earlier today, the Mono County Board of Supervisors adopted an Urgency Ordinance prohibiting open fires on private property within the unincorporated areas of Mono County, and closing the county-operated campground in Lundy Canyon. The Ordinance is in response to extreme local fire threat related to major wildfire events statewide and in Mono County, ongoing drought conditions, well below average rain and snowfall, and extreme dry conditions.

In light of the extreme fire danger facing both the state as a whole, and Mono County specifically, the Mono County Board of Supervisors finds it necessary to enact restrictions on certain open fires on private property within the county, and to close the county-operated campground in Lundy Canyon. Open fires include campfires, bonfires, fire pits, or any other open flame fire (but do not include propane or charcoal barbecues used for cooking).

“There is an immediate need to take action to protect the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens and environment of Mono County from further harm and risk due to extreme wildfire danger,” said Stacy Corless, Chair of the Mono County Board of Supervisors. “This week, the Inyo and other national forests in central and southern California were closed due to hazardous fire conditions and the lack of firefighting resources statewide. Locally, we need to do our part toward protecting our communities.”

In addition to Mono County’s Ordinance, state and federal agencies have also taken action over the past few months to address the extreme fire threat, including:

- ◆ The Inyo National Forest and Bureau of Land Management Bishop Office issued restrictions on open fires on federal lands in the Eastern Sierra (June 27);

- ◆ Governor Gavin Newsom declared a State of Emergence in five California counties due to the existence of 25 major wildfires which have collectively burned more than 1.2 million acres (September 7); and,
- ◆ The United States Forest Service closed eight National Forests in California due to extreme fire conditions, including the Inyo National Forest (September 7).

The Ordinance went into effect immediately, and shall be reviewed by the Board of Supervisors on September 15, 2020, and at each meeting thereafter until terminated by action of the Board.

###