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NEWS RELEASE

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Open Burn Season to Close Early in SW Utah

St. George, UT – Due to dry conditions, fire officials in Southwest Utah have decided to implement the “closed fire season” early this year in unincorporated areas of Washington, Iron, Garfield, Kane and Beaver counties. The closure, which normally starts on June 1, will instead go into effect at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, May 9. Once the closure begins, debris burning without a permit is no longer allowed in the unincorporated areas of those five counties. _

Officials are making the proactive move in response to higher fire danger and an anticipated busy spring fire season. Already this year, several escaped debris burns have spread onto public lands as well as neighboring private land threatening homes and the safety of the public. Fuel moisture tests have shown that the light and medium fuels are drier than normal. The drier grasses and brush are not only easier to ignite, but more challenging to extinguish once they are ignited.

Violation of the closed fire season is a Class B misdemeanor and can result in a fine of up to \$2,500 and one year in jail (UCA 65a-8-211). The closed season is scheduled to end October 31, and as long as conditions permit, yard, debris and field burning will once again be allowed.

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