

STATE OF ALASKA



Executive Proclamation by Governor Mike Dunleavy

WHEREAS, Alaska's vast expanses of wildlands serve as habitat for fish and wildlife, provide abundant recreational opportunities for residents and visitors, are home to extensive timber resources, and enrich our Alaskan lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, wildland fires are a natural and inevitable part of the ecosystem and are vital to the maintenance of forest health; they are also unpredictable and can spread at a swift pace, endangering lives and property; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's wildland fire management agencies share the common goals of promoting personal safety and reducing loss of life, while preserving and enhancing the health of forests and wetlands; and

WHEREAS, in addition to naturally occurring wildfires, fires caused by people happen every year, and they typically pose more of a threat to residents, firefighters, and property. Wildland fires pose a serious public safety concern, so Alaskans must use precaution, practice prevention, and be prepared to protect the communities that are surrounded by, and intermingled with, undeveloped lands; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, the trend has been for earlier and longer fire seasons. In 2020, 181,253 acres were burned, making public awareness of wildland fire prevention practices and preparedness measures crucial for public safety; and

WHEREAS, communities and individuals must be proactive in both preventing and preparing for wildfires.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Mike Dunleavy, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF ALASKA, do hereby proclaim May 9-15, 2021 as:

Wildland Fire Prevention and Preparedness Week

in Alaska, and encourage all Alaskans to recognize the importance of wildfires to the Alaskan landscape, be aware of their potential for damage, and commit to educating themselves on how to reduce the threat of wildland fires to our homes, property, and community.

Dated: May 9, 2021



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Dunleavy".

*Mike Dunleavy, Governor
who has also authorized the
seal of the State of Alaska to
be affixed to this proclamation.*