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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, MAY 19, 2022

NEWS RELEASE

City Manager receives temporary authority to manage fire risks

Durango, CO: An emergency ordinance was enacted by City Council on Tuesday, giving City Manager José Madrigal the ability to take any and all actions to regulate fire risks within the city.

The emergency ordinance will be effective for 60 days and gives Madrigal the ability to regulate the use of land within the city to minimize the catastrophic impacts a fire would have on the community. The last time a similar ordinance was enacted was in 2018.

This emergency ordinance comes after weeks of the National Weather Service issuing red flag warnings in Durango and its surrounding areas, and last weekend's Ute Pass Fire near Edgemont Ranch.

Aside from any fire regulations that Madrigal may decide to enact during this emergency ordinance, the City of Durango receives fire restriction guidelines from the [Durango Fire Protection District](#).

Currently in the City of Durango, only small and attended recreational campfires, cooking fires, and warming fires are allowed. No other open burning is allowed. A "small" fire is no more than 3 feet in diameter, and 2 feet in flame height. All small fires must be at least 25 feet away from any structures or other combustibles.

The emergency ordinance coincides with [La Plata County's issuance of Stage 1 Fire Restrictions](#) effective Thursday, May 20.

Stage 1 fire restrictions prohibit the following acts in the unincorporated areas of La Plata County and upon all lands owned by La Plata County, excluding private lands in the Towns of Bayfield and Ignacio, the City of Durango or any federal or tribal lands:

- Open burning; burn barrels; building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire, coal, or wood burning stove; any type of charcoal fueled broiler; open fire of any type
- Smoking, except in areas with a 3-foot-wide area clear of flammable vegetation or inside an enclosed vehicle or building.
- Using explosive material (i.e., fireworks, blasting caps, etc.)

- The use of floating sky lanterns, fire balloons or acetylene balloons are always prohibited in La Plata County.

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