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Bayfield County Land & Water Conservation Department  
615 2nd Ave. East; PO Box 126  
Washburn, WI 54891

• Phone: (715) 373-6167 • FAX: (715) 373-6127 • Website: [www.bayfieldcounty.org](http://www.bayfieldcounty.org)

October 13, 2020

Municipal Officials  
Bayfield County

Re: Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Prevention Initiative

The "Adopt-a-Dumpster" CWD prevention initiative in Bayfield County in 2019 was a great success, much in part due to the participation by several municipalities in the county. Last fall, 6 dumpsters were distributed throughout the county and neighboring counties, to collect deer carcass waste. This is vital to CWD prevention, because research has shown that the disease can spread through prions in deer carcasses.

Last fall was the first time this program was implemented anywhere in northern Wisconsin, and over 5 tons of carcass waste was collected by the end of the season. Figuring in that the overall deer harvest across northern WI was down between 35-40%, and the season was cut short due to a severe snow-storm, 5 tons far surpassed our expectations.

Targeted CWD testing was conducted in all of the Northern WI counties last year for the first time in over a decade, by the WDNR. Five of the six testing kiosks also had one of the carcass waste disposal dumpsters located on site. According to the states bio-metrics team, 300 total samples was the goal per county, that if all tests were negative, would conclude that the county is most likely CWD free. One hundred ninety samples were collected and all recorded negative results, which was great news. Targeted testing will occur in the north again this year, to try and reach the overall goal of 300.

**Bayfield County is requesting municipalities consider contributing \$150 to facilitate the placement of several collection dumpsters throughout the county this Fall during hunting season.** More details on the Adopt-A-Dumpster Program are available at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/dumpster.html>

We hope that you feel as strongly about protecting our wild deer population as much as we do and that you will consider contributing to the Adopt-A-Dumpster program in 2020. If you can please send a check to the Bayfield County Adopt-a-Dumpster Project, P.O. Box 126, Washburn, Wisconsin, 54891

**Our ultimate goal is to keep Bayfield County CWD free!**

Please contact me at 715-373-6167 with any questions you may have, or if you are interested in a more active role in this program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Dufford".

Benjamin A. Dufford  
Director, Bayfield County Land & Water Conservation Dept.

Town Chairs, October 22, 2020

While the recent pandemic has posed many challenges for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) nationwide, it has exacerbated problems delivering high quality care in a safe and efficient manner in our area as well. All the attributes that draw people to our area; forests, lakes, and vast remote beauty, all combine to make transportation of the sick and injured to definitive medical care a very lengthy proposition. The average transport time to the closest medical facility for South Shore Area Ambulance (SSAA) typically exceeds 60 minutes. This time increases exponentially during times of inclement weather that is common during the winter months. Compounding this problem is an aging retirement population in the area and aging volunteer EMT's that are drawn from the older demographic that they serve.

One of the areas of great concern in the delivery of quality EMS care at present is the performance of CPR. The performance of manual CPR for these extended transport times requires more staffing than the typical EMS request. This additional staffing requires the assistance of the local Fire Department personnel to perform CPR not only on scene but during transport to the hospital as well. While performing high quality CPR is easily accomplished rotating multiple personnel, in our limited staffing scenarios it is not practical. The added potential of a Covid exposure to multiple first responders now brings an element of uncertainty that causes at-risk first responders to not even respond. This has been a direct impact brought upon our service during the pandemic.

To alleviate some of these issues, I propose the purchase of a Stryker Lucas chest compression system. This automated CPR system was demonstrated at an in-service held this summer at the ambulance hall and received overwhelming support from the volunteers. The Lucas device allows for CPR to be performed without additional staffing within the patient care area of the ambulance and has the added benefit of allowing EMT's to remain seated and belted during transport.

A quote for this system I believe was previously shared via email from the Town of Clover Clerk. If you require another quote, I shall be happy to forward one.

I wish to thank you for your longstanding support for the vital work of First Responders in the South Shore Area and thank you in advance for your support in this worthwhile endeavor.

At the bottom of this letter, I have copied and pasted relevant recommendations from leading National health organizations.

Jeff Byerhof  
Service Director  
South Shore Area Ambulance

The American Heart Association<sup>1</sup>, U.S. Department of Defense<sup>2</sup> and Canadian Cardiovascular Society<sup>3</sup> propose a role for mechanical CPR in resuscitation during the COVID-19 outbreak.

In order to reduce the risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission to caregivers, there are additional factors to consider when providing CPR:

- Manual CPR is a possible transmission route for caregivers because the mouth and nose of the personnel come close to mouth and nose of the patient<sup>4</sup> (that is valid for any other airborne transmission, such as meningitis)
- During manual CPR, the operator is performing an aerobic activity that increases his/her minute volume and makes it more likely to breathe in aerosol from the patient (patient exhalation of breath including airborne virus)
- During CPR, the patient may be ventilated with an airway device that is not a closed system
- The rotation of operators during manual CPR exposes more people to the disease transmission. When managing suspected and confirmed cases of Covid 19, the number of individual staff members involved in the resuscitation should be kept to a minimum with no or minimal exchange of staff for the duration of the case, if possible<sup>5</sup>.

1. Edelson, et al. Interim guidance for basic and advanced life support in adults, children, and neonates with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. *Circulation*. 2020. (Online ahead of printing)

2. Matos RI, et al. DoD COVID-19 practice management guide; clinical management of COVID-19. <https://health.mil/Reference-Center/Technical-Documents/2020/04/14/DoD-COVID-19-Practice-Management-Guide-Version-2>

3. Canadian Cardiovascular Society. Guidance from the CCS COVID-19 rapid response team. In the resuscitation should [https://www.ccs.ca/images/Images\\_2020/NEW\\_CCS\\_RRT\\_Inhoptial\\_infection\\_reduction\\_30Mar.pdf](https://www.ccs.ca/images/Images_2020/NEW_CCS_RRT_Inhoptial_infection_reduction_30Mar.pdf) 4. Ling L, et al. COVID-19: A critical care perspective informed by lessons learnt from other viral epidemics. *Anaesth Crit Care Pain Med*. 2020 (Online ahead of printing)

5. Peng WHP, et al. Outbreak of a new coronavirus: what anaesthetists should know. *British Journal of Anaesthesia*. 2020;124(5)

## Fireworks Ordinance

Roger, I meant to send this to you after that last meeting I attended, when fireworks permitting was discussed. Just for your/the boards reference. Sorry for the delay.

Attached please find a copy of a DSPS memorandum regarding fireworks law.

Roger Branham, Captain Cornucopia Fire Department, Certified Fire Inspector,  
IFSAC# 2817634.



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## **Wisconsin Fireworks Law 2014**

This memorandum is intended as an **advisory** to law enforcement to address recurring issues with respect to the possession, sale and use of fireworks in Wisconsin. It summarizes Wisconsin fireworks law, answers common questions and corrects common misunderstandings about the law. The applicable statute is *Wisconsin Statute § 167.10*. [https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/167#/statutes/statutes/167/\\_5](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/167#/statutes/statutes/167/_5) The statutes do not give the Department of Justice direct authority to enforce the fireworks law. Enforcement responsibility and authority rest with local law enforcement and district attorneys, or municipal prosecutors in the case of local ordinance violations. **Therefore, law enforcement should consult their local district attorney and municipal prosecutors with respect to specific enforcement questions in their jurisdiction.** Local ordinances may also regulate fireworks and may be stricter than state law, but cannot be less strict. This advisory discusses only state law, so some devices or materials described as legal in this advisory may be prohibited by a local ordinance.

### **Legal Without A Permit**

State law allows the sale, possession and use, without a permit, of sparklers not exceeding 36 inches in length, stationary cones and fountains, toy snakes, smoke bombs, caps, noisemakers, confetti poppers with less than ¼ grain of explosive mixture, and novelty devices that spin or move on the ground. *Wis. Stat. § 167.10(1)*. There is no age restriction on sale, possession or use of these devices and the statute does not classify them as fireworks. Local ordinances may be more restrictive than state statutes and may prohibit any of these items or limit their sale or use. **These are the only kinds of "fireworks," as that word is commonly used, that a person may use or possess without a permit or that may be sold to a person who does not have a permit.**

### **Illegal Without A Permit**

**Possessing or using any other fireworks, including, for example, firecrackers, roman candles, bottle rockets and mortars, in Wisconsin without a valid permit is illegal.** *Wis. Stat. § 167.10(3)*. A commonly used rule of thumb is that a permit is required if the device explodes or leaves the ground. **The sale of these restricted fireworks to a resident of this state without a valid permit is also illegal.** *Wis. Stat. § 167.10(2)*.

Wisconsin Fireworks Law, 2014 2

### **Conditions For A Valid Permit**

The requirements for a valid permit are contained in *Wis. Stat. § 167.10(3)(a), (c) and (f)* and are detailed below.

**A permit may be issued by a mayor, village president or town chair or any person designated by the mayor, village president or town chairperson.** *Wis. Stat.*

*§ 167.10(3)(a)*. If a city, village, or town requires that a user's permit be signed or stamped, a person who is authorized to issue the permit under par. (a) may sign or stamp the permit before the permit is issued rather than signing or stamping the permit at the time that it is issued. *Wis. Stat. § 167.10(3)(fm)*.

**A permit is valid only in the city, village or town of the official who issued it.** A mayor, village president, town chair, or a person they have designated can only authorize

possession or use of fireworks within their jurisdiction. *Wis. Stat. § 167.10(3)(a)*. For example, a permit issued by the town chair of one town cannot and does not authorize possession or use of the fireworks in another town. **Transportation Exception:** A person who has a valid permit from one municipality may purchase fireworks in another municipality and transport them to the municipality in which the person has a permit. *Wis. Stat. § 167.10(3)(b)7*.

**A permit may require a bond or insurance.** *Wis. Stat. § 167.10(3)(e)*. An official issuing a permit may require a bond or insurance policy to indemnify the issuing municipality for any damages that may result from the possession or use of the fireworks.

**A permit may be issued to an individual or group of individuals.** Permits, other than for crop protection, may be issued to a public authority, a fair association, an amusement park, a park board, a civic organization, an individual, or a group of individuals. *Wis. Stat. § 167.10(3)(c)*.

**Although individuals may obtain permits, a group may also obtain a permit in the group's name.** A group with a permit may authorize an individual to make purchases on its behalf, but the permit must be in the name of the group. A person buying for a group should have both a copy of the group's permit and the authorization of the group. A group may not issue a blanket authorization to all its members to purchase on behalf of the group. *City of Wisconsin Dells v. Dells Fireworks, Inc.*, 197 Wis. 2d 1, 21, 539 N.W.2d 916 (Ct. App. 1995). <http://www.wicourts.gov/ca/opinions/94/pdf/94-1999.pdf>. *Wis. Stat. § 167.10* creates "strict regulations" on the sale and use of fireworks. *Id.* Based on all the circumstances the organization must actually exercise control over the purchase or use of the fireworks by its members. *Id.* The authorized buyer may only buy the kind of fireworks specified in the group's permits. The total quantity purchased by all authorized buyers on behalf of the group cannot exceed the quantity of fireworks authorized by the permit. The fireworks Wisconsin Fireworks Law, 2014 3

purchased on behalf of the group may only be possessed in the municipality which issued the group's permit, except while being transported from the point of sale to that municipality. The fireworks may only be used by the group on the date and location specified on the permit and subject to any other conditions on the permit.

**A valid permit must specify the general kind and approximate quantity of fireworks which may be purchased.** *Wis. Stat. § 167.10(3)(f)3*.

**A permit must specify the location at which the fireworks may be possessed or used.** *Wis. Stat. § 167.10(3)(f)4*. As noted above, this location must be within the jurisdiction of the official who issued the permit. It must be a specific location within that jurisdiction, rather than the entire jurisdiction. The statute uses "location" in the singular. A permit that specifies multiple locations is not valid.

**The permit must specify the date of the permitted use.** *Wis. Stat. § 167.10(3)(f)4*. The word "date" is in the singular in the statute. A permit that specifies multiple dates or a range of dates of permitted use is not valid. This, in combination with the specification of location, means that a separate permit is required for each date and location for which use is permitted.

**The permit must specify the date on and after which the fireworks can be purchased.** *Wis. Stat. § 167.10(3)(f)2*. Once a permit is issued, the permittee may purchase fireworks up to the date of the permitted use.

**A copy of a permit for large fireworks displays must be given to a fire or law enforcement official in the municipality which issued the permit at least two days before the date of use.** *Wis. Stat. § 167.10(3)(g)*. This requirement does not apply to smaller *consumer* fireworks which require a permit, i.e. those classified as Division 1.4 explosives under CFR 173.50, or those items which fall outside the definition of fireworks e.g. those identified in *Wis. Stat. § 167.10(1)(a)-(n)*. (Display fireworks are those classified as Division 1.3 explosives under CFR 173.50.)

**The permit may contain additional restrictions.** *Wis. Stat. § 167.10(3)(f)5*. A municipality may adopt ordinances imposing special restrictions, e.g., times or manner of use, distances from buildings or spectators, etc. and a permit may specify these additional restrictions.

**Permits may not be issued to minors.** *Wis. Stat. § 167.10(3)(h)*. Since minors may not be issued fireworks permits, there are no conditions under which it is legal for a minor to possess or use any fireworks except those allowed without a permit, e.g., sparklers, snakes, fountains, etc.

**Fireworks vendors rather than only wholesalers or jobbers are now permitted to sell fireworks to a person who is not a resident of this state.** *Wis. Stat. § 167.10(2)(bg)*. Wisconsin Fireworks Law, 2014 4

However, a nonresident person may not **possess or use** fireworks in Wisconsin without a valid Wisconsin permit. *Wis. Stat. § 167.10(3)(a)*. See also *State v. Victory Fireworks, Inc.*, 230 Wis. 2d 721, 726-27, 602 N.W.2d 128 (Ct. App. 1999). A nonresident who lawfully purchases fireworks under a permit can possess and use those fireworks in Wisconsin pursuant to the terms of the permit or may transport them out of state. A nonresident without a valid Wisconsin permit may order fireworks from a fireworks vendor for shipping out-of-state. *Wis. Stat. § 167.10(4)*, or may transport those fireworks from Wisconsin to another state. (See below)

**Persons may transport fireworks from the place they were purchased to the city, town or village where their possession or use is authorized under a permit or ordinance.** *Wis. Stat. § 167.10(3)(b)7*. However, persons transporting fireworks may not possess them in a city, town or village without a permit from that jurisdiction if they remain there for more than 12 hours. *Wis. Stat. § 167.10(3)(bm)*.

#### **Penalties**

A person who possesses or uses fireworks without a valid permit, or who sells fireworks to a person who does not have a valid permit, is subject to a forfeiture of up to \$1,000 per violation. *Wis. Stat. § 167.10(9)(b)*. Each firework illegally possessed, used or sold may be a separate violation.

A parent or guardian who allows a minor to possess or use fireworks (not including those for which no permits are required) is subject to a forfeiture of up to \$1,000 per violation. *Wis. Stat. § 167.10(9)(c)*.

A city, village or town may obtain an injunction prohibiting a person from violating *Wis. Stat. § 167.10(8)(a)*. Violations of such an injunction are criminal misdemeanors, subject to up to 9 months in jail and a \$10,000 fine. *Wis. Stat. § 167.10(9)(a)*.

#### **Enforcement**

The statutes do not give the Department of Justice direct authority to enforce the fireworks law. Enforcement responsibility and authority rest with local law enforcement and district attorneys, or municipal prosecutors in the case of local ordinance violations. Therefore, law enforcement should consult their local district attorney and municipal prosecutors with respect to specific enforcement questions in their jurisdiction.





**Division of Transportation Investment Management**  
Bureau of Transit, Local Roads, Railroads & Harbors  
PO Box 7913  
Madison, WI 53707-7913

**Tony Evers, Governor**  
**Craig Thompson, Secretary**  
[www.wisconsindot.gov](http://www.wisconsindot.gov)

Telephone: 608-266-0254  
FAX: 608-267-0294  
Email: [tim.olusegun@dot.wi.gov](mailto:tim.olusegun@dot.wi.gov)

September 30, 2020

CVT Code: 04010

ROGER LINDGREN  
TOWN OF BELL  
21980 BLUEBERRY LN  
CORNUCOPIA, WI 54827

Subject: **Calendar Year 2021 ESTIMATE CALCULATION - General Transportation Aids & Connecting Highway Aids**

Dear Local Government Representative:

The 2021 Estimate Calculation Summary below is for General Transportation Aids (GTA) and Connecting Highway Aids (CHA) based on WisDOT's current calculations. Estimate calculations are released in October and final calculations in December.

<b>2021 ESTIMATE CALCULATION SUMMARY</b>	
General Transportation Aids amount:	\$208,269.00
Net Total:	\$208,269.00
<b>Payment Method:</b> Direct deposit to your local government account	
*** PLEASE KEEP YOUR BANKING INFORMATION UPDATED ***	

Aid payments are disbursed to municipalities in four equal payments on the first Monday in January, April, July, and October. Counties receive 25% of their annual payment in January and October and 50% in July; there is no April payment. The GTA calculation process is based directly on the data your local government provided to the Department of Revenue (DOR) in its annual Municipal Financial Report form in addition to the centerline miles reported to WisDOT in its annual plat submittal. Connecting highways are marked State Trunk Highways through your community. Your 2021 CHA reflects the lane mileage data as of December 31, 2019.

**Please review the Calculation Detail Sheet on the back of this letter carefully.** This is your opportunity to correct any errors prior to the calculation of final figures, which will be sent to you in mid-December, 2020. Changes and corrections are due by November 13, 2020.

For questions regarding your GTA/CHA estimate or payments, visit the Programs for Local Government home page at <http://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/doing-bus/local-gov/astnce-pgms/highway/default.aspx> and choose GTA or CHA. For further questions, contact the appropriate department:

- GTA and CHA aid questions: Tim Olusegun, WisDOT, 608-266-0254, [tim.olusegun@dot.wi.gov](mailto:tim.olusegun@dot.wi.gov)
- Banking changes: Lynn Oldenburg, Dept. of Revenue, 608-266-2569, [lynn.oldenburg@wisconsin.gov](mailto:lynn.oldenburg@wisconsin.gov)
- Name, address, and email changes: Lynn Oldenburg, Dept. of Revenue, 608-266-2569, [lynn.oldenburg@wisconsin.gov](mailto:lynn.oldenburg@wisconsin.gov)
- Cost reporting questions: Kathleen Springhorn, Dept. of Revenue Local Government Services, 608-261-5341, [lgs@wisconsin.gov](mailto:lgs@wisconsin.gov)

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** WisDOT is no longer sending these letters via the U.S. Postal Service. You will receive this information via email instead. Please confirm that you have provided a valid email address to DOR Local Government Services.

Sincerely,

Tim Olusegun, WisDOT GTA/CHA Program Manager  
Telephone: (608) 266-0254 -or- email: [tim.olusegun@dot.wi.gov](mailto:tim.olusegun@dot.wi.gov)



**CALENDAR YEAR 2021 ESTIMATE GTA CALCULATION**

Note: Counties are not eligible to be factored as a Rate per Mile calculation.

**INPUT GTA FIGURES:**

CVT Code: 04010		NAME:	TOWN OF BELL BAYFIELD COUNTY
6-Year Average Cost(2014-2019):	\$308,353.00	Mileage as of 01/01/2019:	79.25
3-Year Average Cost(2017-2019):	\$380,351.33	Mileage as of 01/01/2020:	79.25
2019 Submitted Costs:	\$327,959.00	2020 Aids:	\$208,269.00

**CALCULATION STEPS:**

1. Calculate Preliminary Share of Costs (SOC) and Rate Per Mile (RPM)

**SHARE OF COSTS**

(6-Year Average Costs x SOC Percentage) = SOC Amount

6-Year Average Cost:	\$308,353.00
SOC Percentage:	16.8302%
SOC Amount:	\$51,896.55

**RATE PER MILE (Municipalities only)**

(Mileage x Rate Per Mile) = RPM Amount

Mileage as of 01/01/2020:	79.25
Rate Per Mile:	\$2,628.00
RPM Amount:	\$208,269.00

2. Determine Preliminary Amount (Greater of SOC or RPM Amount)

Note: RPM Amount is not applicable to counties

RPM Preliminary Amount:	\$208,269.00
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3. Calculate Minimum and Maximum Adjustments

SHARE OF COSTS
Maximum = No greater than 115% of previous year aid payment
Minimum = Eligible for no less than 90% of previous year aid payment

RATE PER MILE
Maximum = No Maximum Payment Amount
Minimum = Eligible for no less than 90% of previous year aid payment adjusted for any increase or decrease of certified mileage

% Change in Certified Miles:	0.0000%
Minimum 2021 Cushion:	\$187,442.10
Maximum 2021 Cushion:	N/A

Adjustment Amount:	N/A
Adjustment Type:	N/A
2021 Adjusted Amount:	\$208,269.00

4. Apply Cost Cap(Municipalities ONLY)

No municipality may receive more than 85% of its 3-year average costs. If the Adjusted Amount above exceeds the 85% Cost Cap, the Payable Amount is reduced accordingly.

3-Year Average Cost:	\$380,351.33	Cost Cap Reduction Amount:	\$0.00
85% Cost Cap:	\$323,298.63	Payable Amount:	\$208,269.00

5. Apply Filing Penalty

Penalty is applied to Payable Amount if DOR Financial Report is filed late or not filed at all.

Filing Penalty Descriptions:	N/A	Filing Penalty Amount:	\$0.00
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**FINAL GTA AMOUNT: \$208,269.00**

Find the description of the calculation process and data definitions on the GTA home page at: <http://wisconsin.gov/Documents/doing-bus/local-gov/astnce-pgrms/highway/gta-glossary.pdf>



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** November 5, 2020

Contact: [GovPress@wisconsin.gov](mailto:GovPress@wisconsin.gov)

**Gov. Evers Delivers Radio Address Encouraging Wisconsinites to Stay Home  
and Take Precautions to Protect their Neighbors**

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers today delivered the Democratic Radio Address encouraging Wisconsinites to stay home and take every precaution to protect the health and safety of their friends, neighbors, and communities.

Hello, Wisconsin. Governor Tony Evers here.

While the state and country turned its eyes to the presidential election, Wisconsin had another record setting day for COVID-19 cases, with 5,935 Wisconsinites testing positive on Wednesday.

Folks, this pandemic isn't happening someplace else or to somebody else. Wisconsinites in every corner of our state know firsthand the tragedy and loss of this virus.

That's why we've got to get back to the basics of fighting this virus-- I know everyone is tired of all the court decisions whiplash, so here's the bottom line: stay home.

Don't have people at your home who are outside of your immediate family or household. *Don't host or go to gatherings with people outside of your immediate family or household. Limit your social interactions to a circle of 5, and start planning your holidays to happen virtually.*

*Support our local restaurants by getting your food delivered or picking it up to go. Support our local businesses by ordering online and doing contactless pickup.*

*Visit your doctor using telemedicine if you can. Go for a walk or bike ride and some fresh air outside and enjoy what's left of the fall, but otherwise please only leave your house if it's absolutely necessary and essential like picking up prescriptions or grabbing groceries.*

*Make no mistake—every time you choose to stay home, every time you decline a party invitation, every time you get take out instead of dining in, and every time you make another sacrifice after months of sacrifices, you help stop the spread.*

*The choices you make every day could be the difference between preventing a hospitalization or even saving a life. I hope I can count on you for your help. Thank you.*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** November 6, 2020

Contact: [GovPress@wisconsin.gov](mailto:GovPress@wisconsin.gov)

**Gov. Evers Releases Statement on District Court of Appeals Decision on Public Gatherings Limits, Encourages Wisconsinites to Stay Home**

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers today released the statement below regarding the Third District Court of Appeals' decision to order a temporary injunction on [Emergency Order #3](#), limiting public gatherings to 25 percent of a building or room's capacity, which was set to expire today.

“Today’s decision comes as we reported more than 6,000 new COVID-19 cases—the most ever in a single day. This is another blow to our state's response to this pandemic and our efforts to keep Wisconsinites safe. We will continue challenging this decision, but the bottom line is that we can’t wait for the courts to figure this out—we need Wisconsinites to stay home and mask up, and it has to start today. It’s the only way we will get this virus under control and ensure our economy can recover.”

## **When Leaves Fall – fire risk increases**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** Nov. 6, 2020

Contact: Catherine Koele, DNR fire prevention specialist  
[Catherine.Koele@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Catherine.Koele@wisconsin.gov) or 608-219-9075

**MADISON, Wis.** – Warmer temperatures, gusty winds and dry vegetation resulted in nearly 50 wildfires across the state this week. Winds are expected to increase going into the weekend—no rain expected until Monday.

"The last week or so has been unusually busy due to the dry fuels, increased burning activity and lack of snow statewide," said Catherine Koele, DNR fire prevention specialist. "While these fires have remained relatively small in size, fire control officials are concerned the forecasted winds over the weekend could result in increased fire occurrence and rapid fire growth."

The main causes of these wildfires have been leaf and brush pile burning, sparks from lawn and recreational equipment, campfires and improper ash disposal from fireplaces. It is not uncommon to see the risk of wildfire rise in the fall.

Wildfires can occur any time of the year when the ground is not completely snow-covered. Things are especially vulnerable in the early spring and again in the fall after the leaves have fallen from the trees and the plants and grasses go dormant in preparation for winter.

Smoldering embers can remain hot for days, even weeks. If using a wood stove or fireplace, empty the ashes into a metal container with a tight-fitting lid or dump the ashes onto bare soil then drown the ash with water and stir until the embers are completely cold.

The same goes for campfires, burn barrels and burned leaf and brush piles – before leaving the area, drown the ashes, stir and keep adding water until all smoke is gone.

The DNR recommends holding off on conducting any debris burning until the ground is completely snow-covered. In addition, keep a close eye on the daily fire danger and know local burning restrictions before using any fire in the outdoors.

For more information on the fire risk in your county, [visit the DNR website](#).