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MEDIA RELEASE

June 1, 2023

~ FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ~

Restricted Fire Zone Declared in Sioux Lookout

Sioux Lookout, ON – The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry has placed the Sioux Lookout district under a Restricted Fire Zone (RFZ) effective 12:01 a.m. today.

During a Restricted Fire Zone, no open air burning of any kind is allowed and all Municipality of Sioux Lookout Fire Permits are suspended for the duration of the RFZ. This includes a ban on grass fires, debris and campfires (even if using an outdoor fire grate), burn barrels, outdoor fireplaces, and fire pits.

A Restricted Fire Zone does not restrict outdoor recreational activities like camping, hiking, and fishing. If you need heat for cooking or warmth, you will need to bring a portable gas or propane stove along with you. Please note that portable charcoal grills are <u>not</u> allowed during an RFZ – except within 100 metres of your home, on your property.

Please exercise extreme caution during an RFZ. Be careful with anything that could start a fire – including setting off fireworks. Watch your propane or fuel-fired equipment carefully. Pay attention to hot ashes and butts if you smoke. Please make sure all matches or cigarettes are completely out before disposing of them.

For more information on Ontario's Restricted Fire Zone rules, visit <u>https://www.ontario.ca/page/outdoor-fire-restrictions</u>.

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For more information, please contact: Jeremy Funk, Fire Chief/Manager of Emergency Services 807-737-2564 ext.7701 or <u>jfunk@siouxlookout.ca</u>