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Department of
Natural Resources

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Anchorage, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: April 26, 2019

Prescribed burns planned at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson

(Palmer, AK) – The Alaska Division of Forestry is planning prescribed burning on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) starting Monday, April 29.

The burns will target grassy fuels present on approximately 1,774 acres of military training ranges. The goal is to remove fine fuels present in those areas to reduce the threat of wildfires from incidental starts that sometimes occur during training.

Crews from the Alaska Division of Forestry, Air Force Wildland Fire Branch and JBER Fire Department will all take part in the operation.

Burning the ranges now allows for more uninterrupted training opportunities. When fires do start on ranges, all training is halted until fires are suppressed. A prescribed burn plan has been developed by the Alaska Division of Forestry and approved for the project. Open burn approvals from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation have also been obtained.

Weather parameters have been developed to ensure the fire behavior does not exceed capabilities of assigned fire personnel. The burn is anticipated to last three to seven days, depending on the weather.

Smoke from the burns will be visible along the Glenn Highway and from portions of Anchorage, Eagle River, and the Matanuska-Susitna Valley.

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