ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN · 2026 оны 10-р сарын 14

Cases of Setting Forest and Steppe Fires Resolved by the Court



This information aims to prevent citizens from committing crimes and infringements and to inform citizens and the public in an accessible manner about crimes set forth in the Criminal Code and how cases are resolved.

As of October 2026, the prosecution service has issued indictments in 7 cases under Article 24.7 of the Criminal Code, “Setting Forest and Steppe Fires,” and transferred them to court for resolution. These cases occurred in the territories of Bulgan, Selenge and Khuvsgul provinces, which have forest reserves, and Dornod Province, which lies in the steppe zone.

A summary of the cases resolved in court is presented below:

Dornod Province Prosecutor's Office:

- On September 2, 2025, while travelling through an area rich in natural grass known as “Sangiin Dalai” in the territory of Khalkhgol Soum, Dornod Province, Z.M failed to clear grass that had accumulated in the exhaust pipe of his vehicle, as a result of which easily flammable grass and vegetation ignited from the heat of the exhaust and a steppe fire broke out. The fire burned 23,093 hectares of pasture, causing 76.1 million MNT in direct damage to the natural environment and ecology, 2.8 million MNT in costs of extinguishing the fire,

i.e. indirect damage, and 57.8 million MNT in damage to the property of a named citizen, for a total of 136.8 million MNT, i.e. damage in a large amount, and also caused serious harm to the health of a named citizen. In this case, the prosecutor issued an indictment under Article 24.7, paragraph 1 of the Criminal Code (steppe fire caused by careless handling of fire or flammable materials) and transferred it to court.

> The Inter-Soum Criminal Court of First Instance in Dornod Province reviewed the case, found Z.M guilty of the crime of “causing a steppe fire through careless handling of fire or flammable materials, resulting in serious harm to human health and damage in a large amount to others,” gave a suspended sentence of 1 year without imprisonment, imposed a coercive measure placing obligations on the offender, and, taking into account his guilt and property situation, reduced the compensation for damage to the environment from 76.1 million MNT to 7.6 million MNT, to be recovered and paid to the Environment and Climate Fund, and ordered the recovery of a total of 60.7 million MNT for the victims and civil plaintiffs.

Selenge Province Prosecutor's Office:

- On April 28, 2025, at a place called “Dunddavaa” in the territory of Tsagaannuur Soum, Selenge Province, Ts.E burned waste in the open outside his home, which caused a forest and steppe fire that burned an area of 5,316.64 hectares (forest, pasture and cropland), causing 8.6 billion MNT in damage to the environment, and damaging by fire the property of 13 named citizens and 2 legal entities, causing total damage of 139.8 MNT. In this case, the prosecutor issued an indictment under Article 24.7, paragraph 1 of the Criminal Code (forest and steppe fire caused by careless handling of fire or flammable materials) and transferred it to court.

> The Inter-Soum Criminal Court of First Instance in Selenge Province reviewed the case, found Ts.E guilty of the crime of “causing a forest and steppe fire through careless handling of fire or flammable materials, resulting in substantial damage to others,” gave a suspended sentence of 1 year without imprisonment, imposed a coercive measure placing obligations on the offender, and deemed the damage to the victims and civil plaintiffs to have been compensated.

- On April 28, 2025, at a place called “Khoyor Davaa” in the territory of Zuunburen Soum, Selenge Province, B.T caused a forest and steppe fire through sparks while using a metal cutter, which burned a forest and steppe area of 4,128.43 hectares covering the territories of Zuunburen and Khushaat soums of the province, causing 2.2 billion MNT in damage to the environment, and damaging by fire the property of 8 named citizens, causing total damage of 90.7 million MNT. In this case, an indictment was issued under Article 24.7, paragraph 1 of the Criminal Code (forest and steppe fire caused by careless handling of fire or flammable materials) and the case was transferred to court.

> The Inter-Soum Criminal Court of First Instance in Selenge Province reviewed the case, found B.T guilty of the crime of “causing a forest and steppe fire through careless

> handling of fire or flammable materials, resulting in substantial damage to others,” gave a suspended sentence of 2 years without imprisonment, imposed a coercive measure placing obligations on the offender, and deemed the damage to the victims and civil plaintiffs to have been compensated.

WARNING

Under the Law on Forests, the “fire hazard period” refers to the dry period in which natural conditions for forest and steppe fires exist in the given territory, namely the period from September 20 to November 10 each year.

> During the autumn dry season, the risk of forest and steppe fires caused by careless actions of citizens increases.

Therefore, fires can be prevented by citizens carefully checking safety when traveling by vehicle in forest and steppe areas, fitting exhaust pipes with spark arrestors, not lighting open fires, fully extinguishing campfires, used matches, cigarettes, embers and ashes, and by every household making it a habit during the fire hazard period to place hot ash and embers in specially prepared pits or containers with lids.

We call on all citizens to remain vigilant and protect nature.

CRIMINAL CODE

ARTICLE 24.7. SETTING FOREST AND STEPPE FIRES

1. If a forest or steppe fire breaks out as a result of careless handling of fire or flammable materials, causing serious bodily harm or loss of human life, or causing large-scale damage, the offender shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of one to five years.

2. If a forest or steppe fire is set intentionally, the offender shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of two to eight years.

Эх сурвалж: https://prosecutor-en.greensoft.mn/post/3663