

RED FLAG WARNINGS

A **Red Flag Warning**, also known as a Fire Weather Warning, is a forecast warning issued by the National Weather Service to inform area firefighting and land management agencies that conditions are ripe for wildland fire ignition and rapid propagation. After drought conditions and when humidity is very low, and especially when high or erratic winds (which may include lightning) are a factor, the Red Flag Warning becomes a critical statement for firefighting agencies. They usually include the daily vegetation moisture content calculations, expected afternoon high temperature, afternoon minimum relative humidity and daytime wind speed.

To the public, a Red Flag Warning means high fire danger with increased probability of a quickly spreading vegetation fire in the area within 24 hours. **Always check the weather and DO NOT start any outdoor fires during Red Flag Warnings.**



In case of wildfire or other emergency, please go to:

gcemergency.com

to access emergency information, alerts, and any evacuation notices.



DO NOT build an outdoor fire larger than 3 feet in diameter. Rocks do not make a permanent fire ring.

Only build an outdoor fire on bare soil/rocks using a metal fire ring. Adding a screen over the top is even better to prevent embers from escaping.



DO NOT burn slash piles during the summer months. Call the Sheriff's non-emergency dispatch line to report any illegal burning: 970.725.3311

Burning slash piles is okay during burn season (snow on the ground) with the proper permit/approval from County DNR.



DO NOT use a burn barrel! They are illegal! They do not combust efficiently, create a smoke nuisance and produce toxic pollutants.

Visit the Grand County Wildfire Council at www.BeWildfireReady.org
Email: BeWildfireReady@gmail.com
Phone: 970.627.7121

FIRE INFORMATION



GRAND COUNTY COLORADO



ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDFIRES!



Campfires

Improperly doused or misplaced fires are one of the leading causes of wildfires. Before starting a fire, check your area's current restriction status to make sure conditions are safe for an open flame. **Never burn in high winds or leave a fire unattended.** Do not make excessively large fires as these can quickly get out of control—three (3) feet

wide is the max. Campfires should be surrounded by a **metal ring** and be located a minimum of ten (10) feet away from any potential combustibles and 25 feet away from structures. Make sure to only burn firewood and nothing else. Also, keep a shovel, an extinguisher and water nearby to quickly put out the fire, should the need arise. Completely extinguish a fire with sufficient dousing and cover with dirt before leaving the campsite. **All outdoor fires must be OUT COLD!**

Slash Pile Burning

Burning slash is a common practice for removing unwanted trees and limbs and is often an easier solution than hauling the waste. The danger with burning slash comes from winds, which can blow burning yard waste and embers far away and easily ignite combustible vegetation. Legal slash pile burning in Grand County is open from approximately November 1st to April 1st and is regulated by Grand County Natural Resources. More information is available by calling 970.887.0745 or by visiting their page on Grand County's website: www.co.grand.co.us. **There is no slash pile burning in the summer months!**

Smoking Materials

To prevent cigarettes, cigars or pipes from starting wildfires, always dispose of them in places where they cannot be a source of ignition. Placing smoking materials in a cup of water or an ashtray after use are great ways to prevent them from causing fires. Make sure they are put out or contained so that a still-lit butt cannot blow toward a potential source of ignition. Never simply discard smoking materials on the ground or throw them out a car window. **Better yet, don't smoke!!**

FIRE RESTRICTIONS 101

Stage 1 Fire Restrictions can be in effect during periods of high to extreme fire danger. They include:

- No outdoor fires EXCEPT in developed campgrounds or picnic areas with **permanently constructed** fire grates and/or charcoal grills
- No use of open flame torches or explosives
- No operation of any internal or external combustion engine without a spark arresting device, properly installed, maintained and in effective working order
- Smoking is only permitted in an enclosed vehicle or building, or while stopped in an area at least 3' in diameter that is clear of all flammable materials

Exceptions:

- Petroleum-fueled stoves, grills, lanterns and heating devices are permitted only if they have an on/off switch and meet fire underwriter's safety specifications
- Owners/leasers of residences may have fires on their private property in **permanently constructed** fire rings/pits and charcoal grills
- Persons with a special permit specifically authorizing their activity

Stage 2 Fire Restrictions can be in effect during periods of high to extreme fire danger. They include:

- **No outdoor fires or campfires of any kind**
- No use of open flame torches or explosives
- No operation of any internal or external combustion engine without a spark arresting device, properly installed, maintained and in effective working order
- Smoking is only permitted in an enclosed vehicle or building

Exceptions:

- Petroleum-fueled stoves, grills, lanterns and heating devices are permitted only if they have an on/off switch and meet fire underwriter's safety specifications
- Owners/leasers of residences may have fires within the home
- Persons with a special permit specifically authorizing their activity



Fire restrictions can originate from many places, causing confusion for the public. Federal agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the National Park Service can impose restrictions on the public land they manage. Individual states can impose restrictions on state-managed land. Counties may impose restrictions or bans on private lands within county borders. This can be very confusing and frustrating, especially when adjacent lands have different restrictions depending on the administering agency. Grand County fire officials work closely with the land management agencies and participate in weekly fire restriction calls to coordinate efforts.

Information on fire restrictions and bans can change rapidly. The most current information can and should be obtained from your local county and/or federal land managers. Be sure you are aware of the current restriction status for the area you are in! Call your local fire department or the Sheriff's recorded

Grand County Sheriff
@GrandCountySheriff
co.grand.co.us

Grand County
Emergency Mgmt.
@GrandCountyOEM
gcemergency.com

BLM Colorado
@BLMColoradoFire
blm.gov
970.724.3000

Rocky Mountain
National Park
@RockyNPS
nps.gov/romo
970.586.1206

USFS
@usfsarp
www.fs.usda.gov/main/arp/fire
970.498.1030