

MITIGATING FOR WILDFIRE

Fire Restrictions

Fire restrictions can originate from many places. Federal agencies can impose restrictions on the public lands they manage; states can impose restrictions on state-managed land; and counties and cities may impose bans on the private lands within their borders.

Before starting a fire or lighting smoking materials:

- ◆ **Check your area's current fire danger/restriction status to make sure conditions are safe and allow for an open flame.**
- ◆ Never burn in high winds or leave a fire unattended.
- ◆ Do not make excessively large fires because they can quickly get out of control.
- ◆ Recreational fires/campfires should be no more than three feet in diameter and two feet in height.
- ◆ Campfires should be surrounded by a metal ring and be located ten feet away from any potential combustibles.
- ◆ Only burn firewood and nothing else.
- ◆ Keep a shovel, extinguisher, and water nearby to quickly subdue a fire should it get out of control.
- ◆ Completely extinguish your fire by sufficiently dousing and covering with dirt before leaving the campsite. It should be COLD!
- ◆ Always dispose of smoking materials where they cannot be a source of ignition.
- ◆ Never discard a cigarette or other smoking material on the ground or throw it out a car window.



Stages of Fire Restrictions

Stage 1

The first stage of restrictions occurs when there is an increasing fire danger and/or an increasing preparedness level, and the risks of keeping the forest open to all activities begins to be outweighed by the risks inherent in doing so. **Stage 1 imposes relatively minor restrictions aimed at preventing the start of wildfires based on human activities that are known to be high risk, specifically smoking and campfires.**

Stage 2

As the risks increase, officials may choose to move to Stage 2. **This stage intensifies the restrictions from Stage 1 by focusing on activities that, although normally managed under permit or contract, have a relatively high risk of causing a fire start.** Restrictions under Stage 2 will affect forest users and will have economic impacts to contractors, permittees, and others. Therefore, the decision to move to Stage 2 will involve a risk/benefit assessment, as well as consideration of economic and social impacts.

Stage 3

Stage 3 is a closure. This stage is selected when there are very high risks and the ability to manage those risks using Stage 1 or 2 restrictions is no longer viable. The social, economic, and political impacts of implementing a closure at this point are outweighed by the benefits associated with virtually eliminating the potential for human caused fire starts.

In addition to not burning during active Fire Restrictions, care should be taken on days with "**Red Flag Warnings**". **Red Flag Warnings** occur when weather and fuel conditions could result in extreme fire behavior. **Outdoor fires should be avoided on these days.** Check for **Red Flag Warnings** here: <https://www.weather.gov/bou/> (updated daily by the National Weather Service)

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/leasees 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/leasees of residences may have fires within the home
- Persons with a special permit specifically authorizing their activity



View Current Fire Restrictions & Stage-Specific Infographics: bewildfireready.org/fire-restrictions/