

FIRE RESTRICTION CRITERIA

When weather factors and fuel conditions indicate an increased risk to public safety and fire fighting personnel, the following criteria should be used to determine if fire restrictions should be considered by area. Throughout the fire season, appropriate responsible area personnel will review these evaluation guidelines to help determine threshold levels that may trigger a need for different levels of restriction. All thresholds for restrictions should exceed normal fire season conditions.

Use data from local area weather stations, Sno-Tel data, historical weather records, measured fuel moisture data, fire occurrence and observed fire behavior in each fire restriction area to assist in making a determination. When more than one weather station must be evaluated in an area, utilize weighted risk factors pertinent to the values at risk and apply this to the following criteria:

1. Measured Thousand Hour Time-lag fuel moisture content is 12% or less.
2. Seasonal Energy Release Component (ERC) is above the 80th percentile.
3. Three day mean Burning Index is above the 80th percentile.
4. Ignition component is 80% or above.
5. Fire danger rating adjective class is VERY HIGH or EXTREME.
6. Fire occurrence is impacting available suppression resources making adequate initial attack difficult.
7. Local area Preparedness Level (PL) is 3 or above.
8. Local area is receiving a high occurrence of fires and human caused risk is expected to Increase.
9. Adverse fire weather conditions and risks are predicted to continue.
10. Implementation of existing fire restrictions is not adequately reducing human-caused fires.

STAGE I: If four or more of the above conditions exist, consider initiating a Stage I Restriction.

STAGE II: Consider initiating a Stage II Restriction after a Stage I Restriction has been imposed and six or more of the above conditions exist.

STAGE III: Consider initiating a Stage III Closure after a Stage II restriction has been imposed and seven or more of the above conditions exist.

PROPOSED GUIDELINES FOR RESCISSION

The above fire restriction guidelines would also serve as criteria for rescinding restrictions or closures.

RESCISSION FROM STAGE III TO STAGE II: Reduction to six or fewer of the above conditions will apply for a period of 7 days with a predicted trend toward continued improvement.

RESCISSION FROM STAGE II OR STAGE I: Reduction to four or fewer of the above conditions will apply for a period of 7 days with a predicted trend toward continued improvement.

RESCISSION FROM STAGE I: Reduction to three or fewer of the above conditions will apply for a period of 7 days with a predicted trend toward continued improvement.

STAGE I AND STAGE II RESTRICTIONS

There will be two fire restriction stages: Stage I and Stage II. Stage III denotes area closure. Each agency within a fire restriction area must write its own agency document that authorizes the restrictions within its jurisdiction. Each agency is responsible for using its own format, citing the specific Codes of Federal Regulation (CFR) and United States Code (U. S. C.) and having the appropriate legal counsel review the document to assure it is correct and enforceable. To establish consistency, reduce confusion and standardize restrictions, the following criteria will be used in all restriction documents:

STAGE I

The following acts are prohibited until further notice:

1. Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire, coal or wood burning stove, any type of charcoal fueled broiler or open fire of any type in undeveloped areas.
2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, in a developed recreation site or while stopped in an area at least 3 feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable vegetation.
3. Using explosive material: (i.e.: fireworks, blasting caps or any incendiary device which may result in the ignition of flammable material.)
4. Welding, or operating acetylene or other similar torch with open flame.
5. Operating or using any internal combustion engine without a spark arresting device properly installed, maintained and in effective working order meeting either:
 - a. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service Standard 5100-1a; or
 - b. Appropriate Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) recommended practice J335 (b) and J350 (a).

Possible Exemptions

1. Persons with a written permit specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.
2. Fires in constructed, permanent fire pits or fire grates within developed recreation sites.
3. Any Federal, State, or local officer or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.
4. Mechanical stoves and appliances fueled by bottled or liquid gas which allow the operator to control or extinguish the flame with a valve are permitted provided that such devices are approved by Underwriters Laboratory Inc.
5. Owners or lessees of land in the restricted area.
6. Residents in the restricted area.

NOTE: Agency Administrators are responsible for adding appropriate legal citations that will allow for implementation and enforcement of respective restrictions or closures. It is highly recommended that orders are reviewed by representing agency solicitor prior to issuance.

STAGE II

The following acts are prohibited until further notice:

1. Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire, coal or wood burning stove, any type of charcoal fueled broiler or open fire of any type.
2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building.
3. Using explosive material: (i.e.: fireworks, blasting caps or any incendiary device which may result in the ignition of flammable material.)
4. Welding, or operating acetylene or other similar torch with open flame.
5. Operating or using any internal combustion engine without a spark arresting device properly installed, maintained and in effective working order meeting either:
 - a. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service Standard 5100-1a; or
 - b. Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) recommended practice J335 (b) and J350 (a).
6. Operating a chainsaw without a chemical pressurized fire extinguisher of not less than 8 ounces capacity by weight, and one size 0 or larger round pointed shovel with an overall length of at least 36 inches. The extinguisher shall be with the chainsaw operator. The shovel may be kept with the fueling supplies but readily available.

Other possible restricted acts under Stage II

1. Operating a motorized vehicle off designated roads and trails.
2. Operating a chainsaw outside the hours of 5:00 am and 11:00 am.
3. Overnight camping limited to listed campgrounds and recreation sites. (An attachment of designated sites would be included)

Possible Exemptions

1. Persons with a written permit specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.
2. Any Federal, State or local officer or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.
3. Mechanical stoves and appliances fueled by bottled or liquid gas which allow the operator to control and extinguish the flame with a valve are permitted provided that such devices are approved by Underwriters Laboratory Inc.
4. Owners or lessees of land in the restricted area.
5. Residents in the restricted area.

NOTE: Agency Administrators are responsible for adding appropriate legal citations that will allow for implementation and enforcement of respective restrictions or closures. It is highly recommended that orders are reviewed by representing agency solicitor prior to issuance.

STAGE III

Before the fire season, the “The Council” will review the evaluation guidelines and determine threshold levels that substantiate the need for closures.

Examples include:

- Potential loss of life due to explosive fire conditions.
- Potential for extreme or blowup fire behavior.
- Stage II or State III restrictions are not effective in reducing the number of human-caused fires.
- Resources across the geographic area are at a critical shortage level.
- Proximity to substantial population centers.
- The extent of wildland urban interface.