

Fort Collins Dispatch Zone Fire Restriction & Fire Ban Criteria

The following criteria are used to determine the need for fire restrictions or fire bans. These criteria are based on calculated, quantifiable variables designed to be used within the typical wildfire season; April through October. Local political influences may also need to be considered.

Instructions: (Reference the Fire Restriction – Fire Ban Matrix):

1. Select Weather Stations (or representative locations of concern).
2. Obtain the following criteria information from the following sources:
 - **Energy Release Component:** National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) or Fort Collins (FTC) Interagency Dispatch.
 - **1000 hour fuel moisture:** NFDRS, or FTC Dispatch.
 - **Live fuel moisture:** NFDRS and field sampled results from Arapaho-Roosevelt NF.
 - **FTC-Area Preparedness Level:** Daily afternoon radio broadcast or FTC web page; http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch_centers/r2ftc/
 - **Rocky Mountain Region Preparedness Level:** RMACC web page; <http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/>
 - **Weather Trend** to determine if short and long-range trends are improving, stable or deteriorating: National Weather Service Fire Weather Forecasts from local Dispatch Center or <http://www.weather.gov/bou/firewxfcstmap>
3. From the Matrix, determine the critical thresholds for each criterion.
4. From the charts below; determine the number of criteria that have reached or exceeded the threshold for either fire restriction or fire ban.

# of Criteria beyond threshold	Fire Restrictions
0 to 1	None
2 to 3	Consider
4 or More	Implement

# of Criteria beyond threshold	Fire Ban
0 to 2	None
3 to 4	Consider
5 or More	Implement

5. Coordinate with all applicable Agencies to initiate actions.
6. Continue to monitor conditions to evaluate status of fire restriction or fire ban, and elevate or suspend as necessary.

- *The need for fire restrictions or bans outside the typical fire season will be determined through consensus of cooperating Agencies. This requires judgment based on qualitative input, along with weather trends and historical patterns. Portions of the matrix are based on NFDRS data, and the fuels criteria are unavailable during the winter due to the nature of wildland fuels models in the western U.S. **

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Weather Station <i>(Representative Location)</i>	Elevation	Category	Energy Release Component	1000 hr. Fuel Moisture	Live Fuel Moisture	FTC - Area Preparedness Level	Rocky Mtn. Region Preparedness Level	Weather Trend
Red Feather <i>(North Larimer County)</i>	8214'	Restriction	59	<11%	<120%	3	4	5 - 7 days
		Ban	68	<9%	<100%	4	5	7 - 14 days
Estes Park <i>(Rocky Mountain NP)</i>	7820'	Restriction	59	<11%	<120%	3	4	5 - 7 days
		Ban	69	<9%	<100%	4	5	7 - 14 days
Redstone Canyon <i>(Larimer County foothills)</i>	6160'	Restriction	68	<10%	<120%	3	4	5 - 7 days
		Ban	76	<8%	<100%	4	5	7 - 14 days
Sugarloaf <i>(Boulder County)</i>	6775'	Restriction	69	<10%	<120%	3	4	5 - 7 days
		Ban	77	<8%	<100%	4	5	7 - 14 days
Pickle Gulch <i>(Gilpin County)</i>	9380'	Restriction	58	<12%	<120%	3	4	5 - 7 days
		Ban	65	<10%	<100%	4	5	7 - 14 days
Harbison <i>(Grand County)</i>	8640'	Restriction	43	<15%	<120%	3	4	5 - 7 days
		Ban	49	<13%	<100%	4	5	7 - 14 days
Corral Creek <i>(Clear Creek County)</i>	8080'	Restriction	57	<12%	<120%	3	4	5 - 7 days
		Ban	66	<10%	<100%	4	5	7 - 14 days