

Fire Restrictions Explained...

There are two fire restriction stages: Stage I and Stage II.

There is one closure stage: Stage III.

Stage 1

The first stage 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 I 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.

The following acts are prohibited:

Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire or campfire except within a developed recreation site, or improved site. 36 CFR 261.52(a).

Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials. 36 CFR 261.52(d).

Operating or using any internal or external combustion engine without a spark-arresting device properly installed, maintained, and in effective working order

Stage 2

As the risks increase, the line officer may chose to move to Stage II. This stage intensifies the restrictions from Stage I 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 II will affect forest users and will have economic impacts to contractors, permittees, and others. Therefore, the decision to move to Stage II will involve a risk/benefit assessment, as well as consideration of economic and social impacts.

The following acts are prohibited, in addition to the prohibitions of Stage I:

1. Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire or campfire.

2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building.

3. Possessing, discharging, or using any kind of firework or other pyrotechnic device.

4. Using an explosive.

5. Operating a chainsaw or other equipment powered by an internal combustion engine between 1:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

6. Operating or using any internal or external combustion engine without a spark arresting device properly installed, maintained and in effective working order

7. Welding, or operating an acetylene or other torch with open flame

8. Possess or use a motor vehicle off: Except when parking in an area devoid of vegetation within 10 feet of the roadway; and except for parking overnight in developed campgrounds and at trailheads.

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Stage 3

Stage III is closure.

This stage is selected when there are very high risks and the ability to manage those risks using Stage I or II 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.

The area is closed to all entry other than as follow:

Persons with a written fire entry and activity permit.

Any federal, state, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty or

Resident owners of land within the closed area.

