

From: Forest Lakes News [mailto:flnews@cox.net]
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2017 8:48 PM
Subject: Stage 1 Fire Restrictions begin Thursday, June 15

TO: Forest Lakes Residents and Friends

Stage I Fire Restrictions are being implemented by both Coconino County on Thursday, June 15th and the Black Mesa Ranger District on Friday June 16th. I have copied both press releases for your information.

Countywide Stage 1 fire restrictions enacted in Coconino County

Stage 1 fire restrictions, will begin at **8 a.m., Thursday, June 15**, across Coconino County. Fire restrictions are to help protect public health by reducing the number of human-caused wildfires.

The County is enacting the restrictions due to forecasted weather and very high fire danger. Restrictions are in coordination with the Coconino and Kaibab National Forests.

The following restrictions apply on County public lands, as well as private lands in the unincorporated areas of the County. During Stage 1, the only combustion open fire and campfire allowed are listed below:

1. By persons with a written permit or variance.
2. For personal use of cigarette or other tobacco smoking medium when inside an enclosed vehicle or building, or in a developed recreational site in an area that is free of combustible materials and vegetation.
3. For emergency repair of public utilities and railroads and other health and safety mitigation measures when operated by a public utility or railroad and implemented in accordance with an approved agency plan.
4. By persons conducting a cultural or religious ceremony with a written permit or variance.
5. By any Federal, State or local officer or member of an organized rescue or firefighting entity in the performance of an official duty.
6. By persons whose OPEN FIRE is the result of a device manufactured, for the purpose of cooking food, fueled by liquid petroleum or LPG fuels that can be turned on and turned off (for example a gas grill) when used in an area that is free of combustible materials and vegetation. This does not include Liquid fuel or LPG fire rings.
7. By persons operating internal combustion engines, in the course of mechanical or industrial operations, that would produce open flames and sparks but containing appropriate spark arresting devices; those welding or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame in an area that is free of combustible materials and vegetation; and those using explosives with written permission of an authorized governmental agency.
8. By persons operating motorized vehicles off designated roads and trails.
9. By persons operating electric generators or pumps with an approved spark arresting device in an area that is barren or cleared of all overhead and surrounding combustible materials within three (3) feet of the device.
10. Persons engaged in industrial and ranching operations with a permit or variance.
11. With an open fire using charcoal or wood for cooking food or providing warmth for human beings in a for fee campground with fire hosting amenities [grill, fire ring].

Unless allowed by an exemption above, common prohibited activities include open fire, campfires, fireworks, open smoking and use of exploding targets and tracer round ammunition.

Citizens are reminded to use caution when smoking cigarettes outdoors and to completely extinguish them. The use of any machinery that may emit sparks, such as chainsaws and welding equipment should be used

with caution during the high fire danger period. Be prepared and have fire extinguishing equipment readily available.

Residents and visitors are asked to use their best judgment when considering whether to engage in any activity that could spark a fire. Residents and visitors are reminded that they can be held legally responsible for causing any wildfire.

A link to the full Wildfire Defense Ordinance can be found at on the Coconino County homepage at www.coconino.az.gov/emergency.

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests' Stage 1 Fire Restrictions Begins Friday, June 16 at 8:00 a.m.

Campfire and smoking restrictions will be implemented at 8 a.m. Friday, June 16, on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests in order to protect public health and reduce preventable human-caused fires.

Under Stage 1 Fire Restrictions, fires, campfires, charcoal, coal, and wood stoves are allowed in designated developed campgrounds only. Devices solely fueled by liquid petroleum or LPG fuels that can be turned on and off are allowed within an area that is cleared of flammable materials within three feet of the device. The restrictions also limit smoking to within enclosed vehicles, buildings, developed campgrounds or while in an area that is cleared of all flammable material at least three feet in diameter. Fireworks and incendiary devices are always prohibited on all national forest lands.

Criteria used to determine when to implement fire restrictions include current and predicted weather, fuel moisture, fire activity levels and available firefighting resources. Fire restrictions will remain in effect until the forests receive significant precipitation.

"Drier conditions on the forests warrant going into fire restrictions," said Gary Strickland, forest fire management officer. "Forests in the Southwest region are already having significant fires and we need members of the public to work with us to prevent human-caused starts."

To summarize, you may ask "What can I do or not do during a Stage I Fire Restriction?"

- You **CANNOT** have campfires or charcoal fires except in designated campsites which have a metal fire ring and/or camp hosts.
- You **CAN** use a pressurized gas stove.
- You **CAN** smoke only within buildings, vehicles, developed recreation sites, or an area 3 feet in diameter cleared of burnable material.

Additional information that you might find helpful ---

It can be difficult to understand the differences between **a Red Flag Warning and a Fire Restriction Stage**. Attached is a flyer that we put together that will hopefully help you. You might want to print it out and keep as a handy reference. A bit of additional clarification: A Red Flag Warning is issued by the National Weather Service and is effective for one day at a time with specific hours. A Fire Restriction Stage is issued by the Forest Service and can also be issued by Coconino County and is in effect from a start date until an end date is issued.

The flyer is always available on the www.floa.org website and a similar flyer on the www.flfdaz.com website. If you still have further questions or concerns, feel free to contact the Fire Station at 928-535-4644 or me at 602-739-4369.

Judy