

## WHY FIRE RESTRICTIONS?

- The potential for catastrophic fires threatening lives and property.
- Extreme drought conditions continue across Colorado.
- Fire fighting resources are stretched thin across the nation in support of all fire suppression efforts, making initial attack difficult.
- High potential for human-caused and lightning-caused fire starts.

## WHAT FIRE RESTRICTIONS MEAN

Violation of the restrictions results in a mandatory court appearance and is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization or imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or both. **Violating these restrictions can have serious consequences!**

The use of a charcoal grill or charcoal in a fire ring or pit is prohibited. Although many people believe charcoal is safer than a wood fire, charcoal fires can spark, especially in windy conditions.

If you are “in attendance” of a campfire, you can be fined. Even though you may not have built or started the fire, you are still considered a party to the violation of fire restrictions. *You are responsible for your actions!*

Free-standing wood-burning stoves commonly used in large canvas wall tents are also prohibited. The stovepipe that extends out of the roof of the tent can carry sparks that may cause a fire.

**Propane or other petroleum- fueled stoves are permitted**, along with lanterns or heating devices that use propane or petroleum-fuels. The rule of thumb is: a stove or device where the “flame can be turned on or off”.

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 material. Each year careless smoking starts forest fires. Never throw a cigarette on the ground or out the car window!

Firewood cutting and gathering is permitted in some areas of National Forest and State lands. Firewood cutters must observe cutting restrictions, have a working spark arrester on their chainsaw, and carry a fire extinguisher and a shovel. During the hours after 11:00 a.m., relative humidity in the air drops dramatically. When humidity drops, grasses, shrubs and trees become drier and more prone to catching on fire. Sparks from a chainsaw have been known to start grasses and pine duff on fire. Please use care when cutting and gathering firewood.

If you are responsible for starting a fire, you can be held liable for the costs of fighting the fire. Suppression costs for large fires can run into millions of dollars. More importantly, wildfires threaten homes and property, destroy forested landscapes and may result in the loss of human life.

***Violation of fire restrictions may result in a \$5000.00 fine, or 6 months imprisonment, or both.***

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## FIRE RESTRICTIONS

### Pike and San Isabel National Forests Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

**The following acts are prohibited on all National Forest system lands within the Pike and San Isabel National Forests and the Comanche and Cimarron National Grasslands until further notice.**

1. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, charcoal grill, coal or wood burning stove.
2. 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 material.

#### **Actions still permitted:**

Use of Petroleum-fueled stoves, lanterns, or heating devices, providing such devices meet the underwriter's specifications for safety.

#### **The following persons are exempt from this order:**

1. Holders of a Recreation Residence Permit located within the restricted area are exempt from Number #1 above, provided such fires are within an enclosed structure.
2. Persons with a permit specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.
3. Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.



**Remember....**

**Fire Prevention Is Everyone's Responsibility**

[www.fs.fed.us/r2/psicc](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/psicc)



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