

Northern Rockies Coordination Group

Missoula Area



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Stage II Fire Restrictions In Effect Friday, August 10th in Missoula Area Campfires Prohibited - LPG stoves OK

MISSOULA, Mont. – Effective 12:01 am on Friday, August 10, Stage II fire restrictions will be enforced across west central Montana. Emergency responders at the city, county, state, tribal, and federal levels have been plagued by unattended campfires this fire season. Several wildfires have ignited and spread quickly through cured grass in the last two weeks as we've come into VERY HIGH or EXTREME fire danger. With unseasonably high temperatures and high winds in the immediate forecast, fire managers need to limit the numbers of wildfires in the area. Stage II restrictions also address other common activities that can spark wildfires in the heat of the day: driving off-road and using tools and engaging in activities with the potential to cause sparks and flames.

This week may be the hottest of the summer so far with temperatures expected to exceed 100°. While cooler temperatures are forecasted this weekend, high winds are also expected. Scarce precipitation in the past month means that grasses and forest vegetation is continuing to dry, and this trend is expected to continue. Any spark has the potential to ignite a wildfire. Interagency fire managers understand that fire restrictions affect the public and refrain from implementing restrictions until they are determined to be necessary. Fire restrictions are reevaluated by cooperating interagency fire managers each week and updated as the situation dictates. It is important that residents and visitors alike check with the appropriate land management agency or www.firerestrictions.us/mt to know if there are any fire restrictions in the area. Even if there are not restrictions in an area, please consider the risk of wildfire when engaged in similar activities.

See page 2 of this release for a list of agencies and counties that will implement Stage II. More may follow in the coming days.

Stage 2 Fire Restrictions prohibit:

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

EXCEPTION: Persons using a fire solely fueled by liquid petroleum or LPG fuels that can be turned on and off. Such devices can only be used in an area that is barren or cleared of all overhead and surrounding flammable materials within three feet of the device.

- 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 materials.

- 3) The following acts are prohibited between 1:00pm and 1:00am, and a one-hour foot patrol in the work area is required following the cessation of all activities as identified in #3 below:

- a) Operating any internal combustibile engine.

EXCEPTION: Operating generators with an approved spark arresting device within an enclosed vehicle or building or in an area that is barren or cleared of all overhead and surrounding flammable materials within three feet of the generator.

- b) Welding, or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame.
- c) Using an explosive.

NOTE: A one-hour foot patrol in the work area is required following cessation of all activities as identified in #3 (a-c) above.

- 4) Operating motorized vehicles off designated roads and trails.

List of Agencies and Counties Where Stage II restrictions will be enforced on Friday, August 10. Individual orders will be released to the public in the coming days. More counties may follow:

- * Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes
- * Bitterroot National Forest (EXCEPT in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness in Idaho)
- * Lolo National Forest (EXCEPT in the Scapegoat Wilderness)
- * MT DNRC - State and Private classified forest land in Missoula, Ravalli, Mineral and Sanders Counties
- * Montana FWP Fishing Access Sites, State Parks, and Wildlife Management Areas in Mineral, Missoula, Ravalli, and Sanders Counties
- * Sanders County Private land outside of city limits
- * Missoula County private land outside of city limits (except Missoula)
- * Missoula City open space and conservation land within the city limits

