



Missoula Area

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Stage II Fire Restrictions Coming for Missoula Area

Missoula, MT—Stage II fire restrictions will go into effect at 12:01 a.m. on 07/17/2021 throughout most of the Missoula Area, including the Flathead Reservation; Bitterroot and Lolo National Forests; BLM lands; US Fish & Wildlife lands; Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and Montana State trust lands and private property outside of city limits classified as “forested.” Some counties in the area will be entering restrictions later than this date (see below). Factors influencing this decision include persistent high numbers of human-caused wildfires (75-80% throughout area); low fire suppression resource availability at the area and regional level; continued hot and dry weather pattern; near drought conditions; and very high to extreme fire danger across the area. Restrictions are intended to minimize wildland fire ignitions from human caused sources.

Under Stage II restrictions, the following acts are prohibited until rescinded:

1. **Campfires**, outside of city limits.
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. Operating motorized vehicles off designated roads and trails.
4. The following acts are prohibited from **1:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.**:
 - Operating a chainsaw or other equipment powered by an internal combustion engine.
 - Blasting, welding, operating acetylene torch or other activities that generate flame.
 - Using an explosive.
 - Note: A one-hour foot patrol in the area is required following cessation of all activities as identified in (4).

Exemptions under which Stage II restrictions DO NOT APPLY:

1. Persons with written permit that specifically authorizes the otherwise prohibited act.
2. Persons using a device fueled solely 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 3 feet of the device.
3. 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.
4. Operating motor vehicles on designated roads and trails.
5. Emergency repair of public utilities as per written exemption.
6. Persons conducting activities in those designated areas where the activity is specifically authorized by written posted notice.
7. Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.
8. All land within a city boundary is exempted.
9. Other exemptions unique to each agency/tribe.

The restrictions will remain in effect until there is a significant long-term change in fire danger and orders are rescinded. For more information regarding fire restrictions throughout Montana visit www.MTFireInfo.org. Agency-specific orders are provided on the site.

It is the responsibility of each of us to “Know Before You Go!”

Restrictions Information & Timeline for Missoula Area Zone Counties:

- Lake, Missoula, Mineral, and Sanders Counties: Stage II implemented Saturday, July 17, 2021
- Ravalli Counties: Stage II implemented Monday, July 19, 2021
- Granite County is currently in Stage I restrictions and will remain until further notice.
- Powell County: Decision on restrictions will be made on Monday 7/19/21
- Flathead County: The CSKT private lands portion that is in the Missoula Area (see map below) will implement Stage 2 restrictions on Saturday, July 17, 2021.

