



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Grand Teton National Park

Joan Anzelmo / Jackie Skaggs
307/739-3415 - 307/739-3393

National Forest Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Bridger-Teton National Forest



Mary Cernicek
307/739-5564

Interagency News Release

For Immediate Release

September 6, 2006

Interagency Fire Managers Increase Fire Danger Rating to Extreme

Teton interagency fire managers announced that effective today, September 6, 2006, the fire danger rating has been elevated to **Extreme** for both the Bridger-Teton National Forest and Grand Teton National Park. Fire officials use a five-step fire danger scale that takes into account the moisture content of grasses, shrubs and trees, projected weather conditions (including temperatures and possible wind events), the ability of fire to spread after ignition, and the available fire-fighting resources. A fire danger rating of extreme means that fires can start easily, spread quickly and burn intensely.

Due to the locally dry conditions, partial fire restrictions were implemented on August 31. Those fire restrictions remain in place and include the following:

- Lighting, building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, barbecue or grill is allowed **only** in designated recreation sites such as established campgrounds or picnic areas. Use of portable stoves and lanterns using gas, jellied petroleum or pressurized liquid fuel, or use of a fully enclosed sheepherder type stove with a spark arrester screen is permitted.
- Smoking is allowed **only** in an enclosed vehicle, building (unless otherwise prohibited), developed recreation site, or while in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials (i.e. parking lots, developed campsites, or location surrounded by water). Operating a chainsaw in national parks is prohibited.
- Operating a chainsaw on national forests is permitted only when equipped with an USDA or SAE approved spark arrester that is properly installed and in effective working order. Operators must also carry a chemical pressurized fire extinguisher with a minimum rating of 2A and one round point shovel with an overall length of at least 36 inches.
- Discharge of fireworks and use of explosives requiring blasting caps are prohibited.

Violation of these prohibitions is punishable by a fine of up to \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, and/or by imprisonment for more than six months.

The Pilgrim Fire burning east of Arizona Lake in the Teton Wilderness is currently 26 acres in size. The Survey Fire near Survey Peak in the northern portion of Grand Teton National Park is 35 acres in size. The Hechtman Fire on the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway has grown to approximately 1,127 acres as it continues to burn through stands of beetle-killed spruce, fir, and lodgepole pines. Each of these fires began from lightning strikes, and continue to be managed as wildland fire use fires for resource benefits. Wildland fire use is a management tool designed to allow naturally-ignited wildland fires to fulfill their natural role in the ecosystem.

No people or structures are threatened by the Pilgrim, Survey or Hechtman fires. No closures of roads or trails are in effect due to the Pilgrim or Survey fires; however, a temporary trail closure is now in place on the Berry Creek Trail from the Owl Creek cutoff to Forest Service trail #008 near the park's western boundary – northeast of Survey Peak – due to activity on the Hechtman Fire.

Local residents and visitors should recognize that **extreme fire danger** exists in this area and consequently practice heightened fire safety at all times. For more information, please contact Grand Teton National Park at 307.739.3300 or Bridger-Teton National Forest at 307.739.5500.