



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

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



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Interagency News Release

For Immediate Release

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Interagency Fire Managers Increase Fire Danger Rating to Extreme

Teton interagency fire managers announced that the fire danger rating has been elevated to **Extreme** for both the Bridger-Teton National Forest and Grand Teton National Park. When determining a fire danger rating, fire officials use a five-step scale with a rating of Extreme being the highest on the scale. Fire officials also use several indices such as: 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 available fire-fighting resources. A fire danger rating of Extreme means that fires can start easily, spread quickly and burn intensely.

As hot, dry weather persists throughout the region, visitors and area residents are reminded that they can help prevent wildfires by being extremely careful with any flammable materials, including cigarettes and campfires. Fire officials will continue to monitor the situation and adjust fire restrictions accordingly. Partial fire restrictions were implemented on July 3. Full fire restrictions, including a ban on campfires, may become necessary at a future date due to extreme weather conditions or increased fire activity in the region.

Currently, the partial fire restrictions include:

- 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 shepherd 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 locations 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.

It is essential that everyone comply with these regulations, especially given the current fire danger rating and tinder-dry conditions. At campsites throughout the area, dozens of unattended campfires have been extinguished by rangers and firefighters so far this season. Unattended or abandoned campfires can quickly escalate into wildfires, and it is extremely important that all campfires are completely extinguished and cold to the touch before campers leave their site.

To report a fire or smoke in either area, call 307.739.3630. For more fire information, please contact Bridger-Teton National Forest at 307.739.5500 or visit www.tetonfires.com.

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