



## News Release

Oregon Department of Forestry  
Southwest Oregon District

October 9, 2020

Oregon Department of Forestry  
Southwest Oregon District  
5286 Table Rock Road  
Central Point, OR 97502

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Effective immediately: changing weather conditions prompts fire danger level decrease to “High”**

A combination of cooler temperatures, higher relative humidity and the potential for rain across southwest Oregon have made it possible to ease-off on some fire prevention regulations. Effective immediately, the fire danger level on Oregon Department of Forestry-protected lands in Jackson and Josephine counties has decreased to “high” (yellow) and the Industrial Fire Precaution Level has been lowered to level two (II).

These regulations affect 1.8 million acres of state, private, county, city and Bureau of Land Management lands protected by ODF’s Southwest Oregon District.

Restrictions on the public use of chain saws, brush cutters and other power-driven or spark-emitting machinery are being slightly relaxed, allowing the use of equipment until 10:00 a.m. and after 8 p.m. Other fire prevention regulations which will remain in effect include:

- No debris burning, including piles and debris burned in burn barrels.
- Exploding targets and tracer ammunition, or any bullet with a pyrotechnic charge in its base, are prohibited.
- No fireworks on or within 1/8<sup>th</sup> of a mile of forestlands.
- Campfires are allowed only in designated campgrounds. This includes charcoal, cooking and warming fires. (Portable stoves using liquefied or bottled fuels are allowed at all times.)

- Motorized vehicles are allowed only on improved roads; one shovel and one gallon of water, or one 2.5 pound or larger fire extinguisher, is required while traveling.
- Smoking while traveling will only be allowed in enclosed vehicles on improved roads, in boats on the water and other specifically designated locations.
- Chain saws may not be used between 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. during high fire danger. During hours outside of this time frame, chain saws may be used but require that the operator have one shovel and one 8-oz or larger fire extinguisher at the work site. A fire watch is also required for one hour after each chainsaw use.
- Cutting, grinding, and welding of metal is not allowed between 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. during high fire danger. These activities will be allowed during hours outside of this time frame only if the work site is cleared of potentially flammable vegetation and other materials, and a water supply is at the job site.
- The mowing of dead or dried grass with power-driven equipment is not allowed between 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. during high fire danger. This restriction does not include mowing of green lawns, or equipment used for the commercial culture and harvest of agricultural crops.
- Any other spark-emitting internal combustion engine-use not specifically mentioned is not allowed between 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. during high fire danger. Use of any spark-emitting internal combustion engine is allowed outside of this time frame only if the work site is cleared of potentially flammable vegetation and other materials, and a water supply is at the job site.
- Any electric fence controllers must be approved by a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories Inc., or be certified by the Department of Consumer and Business Services, and be installed and used in compliance with the fence controller's instructions for fire safe operation.

For more information about the Oregon Department of Forestry's fire season public restrictions, please call or visit the Southwest Oregon District unit office nearest to you:

- Medford Unit, (541) 664-3328
- Grants Pass Unit, (541) 474-3152

Fire season information is also available online at our Facebook page: [@ODFSouthwest](#) and our website: [www.swofire.com](http://www.swofire.com).

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