



# NEWS

July 13, 2009

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY  
SOUTHWEST OREGON DISTRICT  
5286 Table Rock RD  
Central Point, OR 97502

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
SOUTHWEST OREGON NEWS MEDIA

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## **FIRE DANGER LEVEL CLIMBS TO HIGH TOMORROW**

The fire danger level on Oregon Department of Forestry-protected lands in Jackson and Josephine counties climbs to High tomorrow. Among the restrictions that go into place on Tuesday, mowing, chain saw use and other machinery-related activities are curtailed during the afternoon hours. Campfires will be restricted to designated campgrounds, and vehicles will be allowed only on improved roads.

The fire danger level will be raised to High (yellow) at 1:00 a.m. Tuesday. This affects the 1.8 million acres of state, private, county, city and Bureau of Land Management lands protected by ODF's Southwest Oregon District. The Industrial Fire Precaution Level will remain at level 1 (one).

A hot week lies ahead and already-cured fuels, such as grass and weeds, are igniting easily and burning more aggressively, necessitating increased restrictions on common fire-causing activities.

So far this year, Southwest Oregon District firefighters have responded to 87 fires that burned a total of 68.4 acres. The largest fire to date was a series of vehicle-caused fires that burned 6 acres along the Caves Highway on June 24. Thirty-two of the fires this year were caused by lightning.

Here is a summary of fire prevention restrictions that go into effect tomorrow:

- Campfires are allowed only in designated campgrounds. Portable stoves using liquefied or bottled fuels are allowed in other locations.
- Motorized vehicles are allowed only on improved roads.
- Chain saws may not be used between 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. During other hours, chain saw users must have an ax, a shovel and an 8-oz or larger fire extinguisher at the job site, and a fire watch is required for one hour after the saw is shut down.
- Mowing of dead or dry grass with power-driven equipment is not allowed between 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. This restriction does not include mowing of green lawns, or when equipment is used for the commercial culture and harvest of agricultural crops.
- Cutting, grinding or welding metal is not allowed between 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. These activities are allowed during other hours providing the work site is cleared of potentially flammable vegetation and other materials, and a water supply is at the job site.
- Smoking while traveling is allowed only in vehicles on improved roads.
- All debris burning, including debris burned in burn barrels, is prohibited.
- Fireworks use on forestlands is prohibited.
- 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 firesafe operation.

In addition, the following restrictions become effective tomorrow in the Wild and Scenic section of the Rogue River between Grave Creek and Marial:

- Smoking is prohibited while traveling, except in boats on the water, and on sand or gravel bars that lie between water and high water marks that are free of vegetation.
- Open fires are prohibited, including campfires, cooking fires and warming fires. However, portable cooking stoves using liquefied or bottled fuels, and charcoal fires for cooking and built

in raised fire pans, are allowed on sand or gravel bars that lie between water and high water marks which are free of vegetation. Ashes must be hauled out.

- A shovel and a one-gallon or larger bucket are required of all travelers.
- Fireworks are prohibited

For further information about fire restrictions in all parts of the Wild and Scenic Section of the Rogue River, contact the Smullin Visitor Center located at the Rand National Historic Site at (541) 479-3735 or your local Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest office.

Information about fire season restrictions on ODF-protected lands is available online at [www.swofire.oregon.gov](http://www.swofire.oregon.gov) and [swofire.blogspot.com](http://swofire.blogspot.com), and at ODF Southwest Oregon District unit offices:

- Medford Unit, 5286 Table Rock Rd.; (541) 664-3328
- Grants Pass Unit, 5375 Monument Dr.; (541) 474-3152

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