

## Arizona Fire Restrictions — What You Need to Know

If you missed any of the “Did You Know” Series, you can find them on our website at [www.a4wda.org/OHV](http://www.a4wda.org/OHV) Information.

Morning it is Rebecca and Maddie again for this week’s installment.

I have changed the this weeks issue to Fire Restrictions due to our very dry conditions.

As of May 15, 2026, the Department of Forestry and Fire Management has implemented Stage 1 fire restrictions. This means that all National Forests have implemented fire restrictions.

The following counties have also implemented Stage 1 Fire Restrictions – Arizona State Lands in Gila, Maricopa and Pinal counties.

Typically, when one land agency implements fire restrictions all the other land agencies will soon follow.

Fire restrictions can be found on the forest district website you are using.

Arizona is hot and dry in the summer, lately all year round and fire restrictions aren’t random — they’re based on wildfire risk (hot dry weather, low fuel moisture, active fires, drought) and can be issued by state or federal land management agencies.

Restrictions vary by district and elevation, and whether precipitation or monsoon moisture has improved conditions. They remain in effect until *they are rescinded* sometimes well into fall.

Restrictions can apply to:

- All public lands managed by the USFS
- BLM public lands anywhere in Arizona
- Arizona State Trust Lands
- Tribal lands and county jurisdictions depending on local conditions
- Sometimes all of the above at once
- Always check before going

The following information is from the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management: <https://dffm.az.gov/newsroom/fire-restrictions>

### Stage 1 Fire Restrictions

- No open campfires, wood fires, charcoal, coal stoves, or similar unless in a designated, improved site with fire rings or grills
- Smoking restrictions — only allowed in enclosed vehicles or cleared areas
- Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire, charcoal, coal, or wood stove other than in a developed campsite or picnic area is prohibited.



- Exemptions include people using a device solely fueled by liquid petroleum or LPG fuels that can be turned on and off. Some agencies allow portable LPG or liquid petroleum stoves with shut-off controls in cleared areas (typically within a 3-foot cleared perimeter)
- Smoking is prohibited unless: it is within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site/improved site, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials.
- The discharging or using of any kind of fireworks and incendiary devices is prohibited.
- Welding or operating acetylene or other torch devices with an open flame is prohibited. Other restrictions include tool usage that involve flames, target shooting, fireworks and campfires outside of designated fire pits maintained by the Fire Service.

### **Stage 1 - Exemptions:**

- Any federal, state, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.
- All land within a city boundary is exempt unless otherwise stated in city ordinance.

### **Stage 2 Fire Restrictions**

- All fires are prohibited, even in developed campsites and grills
- Restrictions can include no internal combustion engines off designated roads, no welding, no explosives and no generator use during specific hours (e.g., 9 a.m.–8 p.m.) — depending on the agency order.
- Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire, charcoal, coal, or wood stove including fires in developed campgrounds or improved sites is prohibited. People using a device fueled solely by liquid petroleum or LPG fuels that can be turned on and off is permitted. 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.
- Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, is prohibited.
- Discharging a firearm except while engaged in a lawful hunt pursuant to state, federal, or tribal laws and regulations is prohibited.
- Mechanical and Industrial prohibitions:
  - Operating any internal combustion engine.
  - No chainsaw use from 9 A.M. to 8 P.M.
  - Welding, or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame.
  - Using an explosive.

### **Stage 2 - Exemptions**

- People with a written permit that specifically authorizes the otherwise prohibited act. This process can be utilized in cases where public works and public utility emergency repairs are necessary.
- Industrial operations where specific operations and exemptions are identified, and mitigation measures are implemented as outlined in an agency plan.
- 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.
- Operating motorized vehicles on designated roads so long as you park in an area devoid of vegetation within 10 feet of the roadway.

- People conducting activities in those designated areas where the activity is specifically authorized by written posted notice.
- Any federal, state, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force or other authorized personnel in the performance of an official duty.
- All land within a city boundary is exempted unless otherwise stated by city ordinance.

Closure Exemptions - the following information is from the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management:

- Persons with a written permit that specifically authorizes the otherwise prohibited act
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- People conducting activities in those designated areas where the activity is specifically authorized by written posted notice.
- Any federal, state, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force or other authorized personnel in the performance of an official duty.
- All land within a city boundary is exempted unless otherwise stated in city ordinance.

If our conditions do not improve and the risks are too high the land management agencies could close public lands to the public. Always check with the land agency before you go out.

**WARNING:** Fireworks and aerial pyrotechnics are *always* prohibited on state and federal public land — even outside formal fire restriction stages.

You can visit the following website for Arizona interagency fire restrictions page — <https://wildlandfire.az.gov/fire-restrictions>

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**Next – A4WDA #7 – Arizona Permits**