



Pinal Rural Fire & Medical District

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PRESS RELEASE

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STAGE 1 FIRE RESTRICTIONS ARE IN EFFECT IN PINAL RURAL FIRE AND MEDICAL DISTRICT

Extreme and exceptional drought status, dry fuels, an uptick in human fire starts, coupled with upcoming critical fire weather, prompts the Pinal Rural Fire and Medical District to implement fire restrictions.

Beginning May 13, 2021, at 8am, PRFMD will implement Stage I Fire Restrictions in our Fire District including state-owned and managed lands. “said Bobby Apodaca, Fire Chief.

“The goal of the fire restrictions is to protect public health by reducing the number of preventable human-caused wildfires. Restrictions will remain in effect until fire officials determine that conditions have changed sufficiently to reduce the risk of human-caused wildfire”. Said Bobby Apodaca, Fire Chief

Stage I fire restrictions prohibit the following:

- Igniting, building, maintaining or using a fire, including charcoal and briquettes, outside a fire structure that is provided by the Forest Service within a designated area. 36 C.F.R. § 261.52(a).
- Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least three (3) feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of any flammable material. 36 C.F.R. § 261.52(d).
- Discharging a firearm, except while engaged in a lawful hunt pursuant to state, federal, or tribal laws and regulations. 36 C.F.R. § 261.58(m).

Exemptions to the restrictions include the following: Pursuant to 36 C.F.R. §261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from the provisions in this Order:

- Holders of Forest Service Special Use Authorizations are exempt from prohibition No. 1 above, provided such fires are within a fire structure and they are within their permitted area.
- Persons using a stove or grill that is solely fueled by liquid petroleum or liquid petroleum gas (LPG) fuels.
- Persons using a stove fire in a designated area.
- Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of official duty.

The following is a comprehensive list of the designated areas, as referenced in prohibition No. 1. Igniting, building, maintaining, or using a fire, including charcoal and briquettes, is only allowed within a fire structure (metal fire rings and/or metal pedestal grills) provided by the County Parks and the Forest Service at the following developed recreation areas:

The Mission of the Pinal Rural Fire & Medical District is to provide excellent customer service through Commitment, Honor, Strength and Innovation.

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