



U.S. Forest Service  
Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests  
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# News Release

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## Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests' Stage 1 Fire Restrictions Begin Monday, April 23 at 1:00 a.m.

**Springerville, AZ; April 18, 2018 – For Immediate Release** - Campfire and smoking restrictions will be implemented at 1:00 a.m. Monday, April 23, on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests in order to protect public health and reduce preventable human-caused fires.

Under stage 1 fire restrictions, fires, campfires, charcoal, coal, and wood stoves are allowed in designated developed campgrounds only. Devices solely fueled by liquid petroleum or LPG fuels that can be turned on and off are allowed within an area that is cleared of flammable materials within three feet of the device. The restrictions also limit smoking to within enclosed vehicles or buildings and prohibit welding or operating any torch with an open flame. Fireworks, explosives and incendiary devices are **always** prohibited on all national forest lands.

Criteria used to determine when to implement fire restrictions include current and predicted weather, fuel moisture, fire activity levels and available firefighting resources. Fire restrictions will remain in effect until the forests receive significant precipitation.

"Forest conditions are drier this time of year than they have been in the past due to the lack of moisture received over the winter months." said Gary Strickland, Forest Fire Management Officer. "Local resources are in place to respond to fires, but forests in AZ and NM are already having significant fires and we need members of the public to work with us to prevent human-caused starts."

### Fire Information, Know Before You Go:

- Northeastern Arizona Public Information System: <http://311info.net> or call 311 or 928.333.3412
- Arizona Fire Restrictions: <http://firerestrictions.us/az/>
- Fire Restrictions and Red Flag Alerts: <http://wildlandfire.az.gov/>
- Wildfires Near Me: <http://www.wildfiresnearme.wfmrda.com/>

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