

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) concerning implementation of Fire Restrictions on Superior National Forest effective July 9, 2021

Order NO 09-09-21-04

Due to dry conditions, fire activity, and limited resources, the Superior National Forest has prohibited campfires in the Forest, including the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW). Propane devices with an on/off switch are permitted, including lanterns, stoves and firepits. **Campfires are NOT allowed at any location on the Forest. This includes developed campgrounds, rustic campgrounds, backcountry campsites, and dispersed camping areas. This also includes designated fire rings or grates.** Please see [Fire Restrictions Order](#) for additional details.

Q: What lands are covered under the Superior National Forest campfire restriction?

A: All Superior National Forest lands, campgrounds, roads, and trails, including the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

Q: What if I have private land next to or within the Superior National Forest?

A: Only Superior National Forest lands, campgrounds, roads, and trails are covered by the Order.

Currently, the MN DNR has burning restrictions in effect for Lake, St. Louis, and Cook Counties. Please visit https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/firerating_restrictions.html for more information. In the areas affected by the restrictions:

- No campfires are allowed for dispersed, remote, or backcountry camping on all lands.
- Campfires are allowed only in an established fire ring associated with a home, cabin, resorts, or non-USFS campground.
- No fireworks may be ignited on any public or private land outside city limits (check with your local community for any additional restrictions)
- Burning permits will not be issued for brush or yard waste.

Q: I have land leased to me by Superior National Forest, am I restricted from having a campfire?

A: Yes, federally-leased land or a Recreation Residence, is covered by a Forest Service fire restriction because your leased lot is considered public land and included in the area covered by this Order.

Q: I am an outfitter/guide/contractor who has a special use permit or contract to conduct business on federal lands. Am I exempt from these restrictions?

A: No. Your activities are restricted under the same Forest Order as the general public, unless you have a written permit signed by the appropriate agency official granting a specific exemption from the prohibited activity.

Q: Can I use my camp stove while visiting the Superior National Forest?

A: Pressurized devices with on/off valves are allowed, including propane or gas powered firepits, stoves and lanterns. Alcohol stoves are permitted if they have an on/off switch. Stoves or grills fueled by charcoal or any type of wood are not allowed.

Q: Can I use tiki torches, bug candles, etc.?

A: Although these items are not considered “campfires,” technically, they are legal. However, given the extremely dry conditions Forest wide and currently active fires, it would be irresponsible to ignite these items. If a wildfire results from their use, a person could be federally charged and held responsible for the cost of the wildfire. Simply put, do not take the chance of putting the Forest and others in danger.

Q: Why are portable charcoal grills restricted?

A: Charcoal grills can easily cause wildfires because they tend to hold heat for a relatively long period of time and users usually discard the ashes or hot charcoal briquettes. Portable charcoal grills can also easily be tipped over and can produce blowing embers which can easily ignite a wildfire during extreme fire conditions.

Q: Why are LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas) and liquid fueled stoves OK?

A: Using liquid or gas fuel helps reduce the likelihood that individuals might discard or leave ashes or hot charcoal briquettes before they are completely extinguished. These types of stoves also do not produce blowing embers, further reducing the wildfire potential.

Q: What are the fines for not following the Superior National Forest campfire restrictions?

A: Violation of these prohibitions is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000.00 for an individual or \$10,000.00 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than six (6) months, or both (16 U.S.C., 18 U.S.C. 3559 and 3571).