

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service

San Bernardino National Forest



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San Bernardino National Forest
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fire Restrictions Reduced in the San Bernardino National Forest

San Bernardino, CA - San Bernardino National Forest Supervisor Gene Zimmerman announced today that he is reducing the level of fire restrictions in the Forest, effective tomorrow. "With the rain we've just received, I'm reducing the level of fire restrictions from **VERY HIGH** back to **HIGH**" stated Zimmerman, "I'm thankful that we're going to be able to allow some activities again, but I want the public to understand that we are not ending fire season. There still could be significant periods of fire danger ahead of us this year."

With the change in restrictions, visitors will once again be able to have campfires in developed campgrounds. We also are going to permit campfires at yellow post sites. Camping stoves and lanterns will also be allowed as long as the visitor obtains a California campfire permit and follows the conditions of the permit.

"We really need the public to remember that fire season is not over and they should continue to be cautious," said Forest Service Fire Chief Mike

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Dietrich. “November and December are typically the time of year when we have Santa Ana wind driven fires. If the weather turns hot and windy again, the moisture we just received won’t last long,” he added. Dietrich urged visitors to check with the Forest Service about restrictions each time they visit the Forest, in case conditions change.

In conjunction with reducing fire restrictions, Zimmerman also announced that fire crews will begin burning slash piles in the Forest on Friday. “We’ve got acres and acres of piles that need burned in order to make communities safer,” he said. “We plan to get started with that work while the burning weather is favorable. ”At the same time, we’ll be monitoring the weather and the work very closely. If the fire danger increases or another wind event is predicted, we’ll be mopping up the piles we’re working on, and putting the fire out.

The “**HIGH**” Fire Restrictions currently in effect include:

- **Open campfires and charcoal fires** are allowed only in developed campgrounds and yellow post sites.
- **Camping** is permitted outside of developed campgrounds and “Yellow Post” sites, you may use camp stoves and lanterns with a valid California Campfire permit.
- **Smoking** is limited to enclosed vehicles, developed recreation sites, and areas cleared of vegetation three feet in diameter.
- **An approved spark arrester** is required for any internal combustion engine operated off state or county highways or designated forest roads. These include chainsaws, generators, motorcycles, and off-highway vehicles.
- **A permit is required for welding** or operating any torch device with an open flame or for use of any explosive device.
- **FIREWORKS** and steel core or **Teflon ammunitions** are never allowed.
- **Shooting a firearm, air rifle, or gas gun**, is allowed only in designated shooting areas, except for those legally engaged in hunting.

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