

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service

San Bernardino National Forest



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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High Fire Restrictions to Start in National Forest

San Bernardino, CA... Fire season restrictions will be tightened on **Friday, July 22** in the San Bernardino National Forest as the Forest enters the High Fire Restriction Level. Under the restrictions, campfires and charcoal fires will no longer be allowed in yellow post sites. The new restrictions are in addition to restrictions issued on June 20.

“We still have fuel moisture at many of our higher elevations, but we also have grass, so we need to take extra precautions,” said Forest Service Fire Chief Mike Dietrich. Under the restrictions, campfires will be permitted only in developed campgrounds. Visitors may camp in yellow post sites, but they will no longer be permitted to have campfires. Camping stoves and lanterns will be allowed as long as the visitor obtains a California campfire permit and follows the conditions of the permit.

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“With all the grass we have this year, its also especially important that visitors understand and follow the restrictions on smoking,” Dietrich added. Smoking is permitted only within enclosed vehicles, at developed recreation sites, or in an area 3 feet in diameter cleared to mineral soil.

Dietrich reminded visitors that motorcycles and other off-highway vehicles must have an approved spark arrester if they are operated off of state or county highways. “It’s really important that these vehicles have spark arresters, and that they stay on the designated routes so that hot exhaust doesn’t become a problem,” he added

Spark arresters are also required for chainsaws, generators and other internal combustion engines. A permit is required for welding or operating any torch device with an open flame or for use of any explosive device.

“It’s been a fairly quiet fire season so far,” Chief Dietrich added. “I’m sure that’s because the public has been so vigilant, and I thank them for that.” Dietrich went on to remind visitors to be aware of their surroundings, to follow the current fire restrictions, and to report activities that appear suspicious by calling 911.

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