

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 Lifted in National Forest

San Bernardino, CA... With significant rainfall predicted across the southland, the San Bernardino National Forest is reducing fire restrictions beginning at 6 a.m. on Wednesday, October 20. "The rain has significantly reduced the fire danger in our mountains," announced Forest Supervisor Gene Zimmerman. "We're reducing the fire danger level to **Moderate** as a result. If we get the amount of rain and snow that is predicted, we'll have our crews out right away burning the slash and debris piles that we created over the summer," Zimmerman added.

With the change in the fire restriction level, closures of low elevation areas are being lifted. "We'll be allowing visitors to hike into the Forest," said Zimmerman, "but we'll be continuing some road closures that are part of the rehabilitation and recovery

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efforts from the Old and Grand Prix fires.” The change will allow access for hunters and other forest users while still protecting sensitive resources during the fire recovery period. Visitors may contact their local Ranger Station, or visit the San Bernardino National Forest website at www.fs.fed.us/r5/sanbernardino for road closure information.

Under moderate fire restrictions, wood and charcoal fires will once again be allowed in agency-provided campfire rings at designated sites. Camping outside of designated sites will also be allowed, although campfires will not be permitted in these locations. Target shooting will reopen in designated shooting areas, including the 1N09 Shooting area.

Zimmerman reminded visitors that some restrictions remain in effect, including:

- 1) Smoking is allowed only in enclosed vehicles, or at developed recreation sites.
- 2) Spark arresters are required on off-highway vehicles, chainsaws, and other equipment.
- 3) No tracer, armor piercing, steel core, or Teflon ammunition may be used.
- 4) A permit is required for welding, grinding, cutting, or use of explosives on National Forest land.
- 5) Fireworks are not permitted on the San Bernardino National Forest.

“Our visitors, as well as local residents, have really been cooperative with our fire restrictions this year,” said Zimmerman. “I’m grateful for their support, and I’m thrilled to be able to lift the restrictions and allow the public back into the Forest,”

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