

# 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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## New Fire Restrictions in Effect For San Bernardino National Forest

San Bernardino National Forest, CA – July 27, 2004 - San Bernardino National Forest Supervisor Gene Zimmerman announced today that new fire restrictions have been implemented within the Forest, effective immediately. “The Forest Fire Danger Rating Level has been elevated from **HIGH** to **VERY HIGH**,” stated Zimmerman, “this action is being taken because of the current level of fire danger.” Recreational activities are still allowed on the forest; however, some of the recreational activities are restricted and camping is **only allowed** in the developed campgrounds and at designated “Yellow-Post” areas. These forest restrictions will be in effect through the end of the official 2004-fire season.

According to Fire Chief Mike Dietrich, the decision to impose these restrictions is due to the extended dry weather pattern. “The extended dry

weather coupled with a six year drought has decreased the forest vegetation live and dead fuel moisture to a point where it has become necessary to move our 'Fire Danger Wheel' to a VERY HIGH Level," stated Chief Dietrich, "and there is no precipitation in sight." The forest closure areas are the lower elevation ecotypes covered in chaparral, a type of vegetation that dries out quickly.

### THE NEW "VERY HIGH" FOREST RESTRICTIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- **No open campfires or charcoal fires** are allowed on the Forest.
- **Camping stoves** are permitted in campgrounds.
- **Camping** is not allowed outside of developed campgrounds and "Yellow Post" sites. **No wood and or charcoal campfires are allowed.**
- **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**, only in designated shooting areas.
- **Going into the fire closure areas** shown on the forest closure map

For more information about the **Allowable Activities** under a **VERY HIGH Level**, contact your local Forest Service station, or call the Forest information number for a tape recorded message at (909) 382-2600.

A newly designed '*Fire Danger Wheel*' can be viewed on line that states the forest activity "Level." The wheel depicts the *Fire Danger Rating Levels* from Low to Critical. An Allowable Activities chart, or matrix, is linked to the

wheel. The matrix is an easy-to-use chart that shows what activities are allowed at different Levels.

The National Fire Plan implementation 2001, according to Chief Dietrich, has given the forest additional firefighting personnel and equipment. “We have also been very proactive in requesting additional resources since April,” stated Dietrich. “We added helicopters and brought on 2 air tankers in late April, way ahead of schedule which have been very beneficial. We have also added three 20-person fire crews throughout the forest. Two weeks ago, we brought in Smoke Jumpers from Redding, and pre-positioned an Incident Management Team (44 personnel) over one weekend in anticipation of weather conditions. We will continue to request additional resources (engines, crews and aircraft) throughout the summer and fall as conditions change.”

You can have a safe and enjoyable visit to the San Bernardino National Forest by complying with the restrictions and reporting any un-controlled fires you see to your local fire officials by dialing 911. ***Remember the restrictions are for your safety!***

Please visit the San Bernardino National Forest website for a map of the closed area at [www.fs.fed.us/r5/sanbernardino](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sanbernardino).

**Map of Closure Area** (pdf 628kb)

**Allowable Activities Under Forest Use Restrictions** (pdf 1,005kb)

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