



NEWS

August 3, 2005

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY
SOUTHWEST OREGON DISTRICT
5286 Table Rock RD
Central Point, OR 97502

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SOUTHWEST OREGON NEWS MEDIA

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FIRE DANGER EXTREME ON ODF-PROTECTED LANDS

The wildland fire danger levels on lands protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry's Southwest Oregon District are rising at 12:01 a.m. on Monday, August 8. The Industrial Fire Precaution Level (IFPL) climbs to "Level 3" and the public (Regulated Use) fire level is increasing to "Extreme" (red). Specific restrictions are detailed below:

These restrictions affect state, county, private and Bureau of Land Management lands in Jackson and Josephine counties.

Under IFPL 3, the following restrictions will be in place as of August 8:

- Use of Fire – The use of fire in any form is prohibited.
- Partial Shutdown – The following are prohibited except as indicated:
 - Cable yarding – except that gravity operated logging systems employing non-motorized carriages may operate between 8:00 p.m., and 1:00 p.m., when all blocks and moving lines are suspended 10 feet above the ground except the line between the carriage and the chokers.
 - Power saws – except power saws may be used at loading sites and on tractor or skidder operations between the hours of 8:00 p.m., and 1:00 p.m., local time.
- In addition, the following are permitted only between the hours of 8:00 p.m., and 1:00 p.m., local time:
 - Tractor, skidder, feller-buncher, forwarder, and shovel logging operations; where equipment with a blade capable of constructing fireline is immediately available to quickly reach and effectively attack a fire.
 - Mechanized loading or hauling of any product or material.
 - Blasting.
 - Welding or cutting of metal.

- Any spark emitting operation not specifically mentioned.

The following public (Regulated Use) fire restrictions will be in place as of August 8:

- Use of motorized vehicles, including motorcycles and all terrain vehicles, is prohibited, except on improved roads.
- Smoking is prohibited while traveling, except in vehicles on improved roads.
- Open fires are prohibited, including burn barrel use, campfires, charcoal fires, cooking fires, debris burning, and warming fires except at locations designated in writing by the Forester. Portable cooking stoves using liquefied or bottled fuels are allowed.
- Chain saw use is prohibited.
- Use of fireworks is prohibited.
- Cutting, grinding and welding of metal is prohibited.
- Mowing of dry grass with power driven equipment is prohibited, except for the commercial culture and harvest of agricultural crops.

Additionally, the following public use fire restrictions will be in effect August 8 in the Wild and Scenic section of the Rogue River, between Graves Creek and Marial:

- Smoking is prohibited while traveling, except in boats on the water, and on sand or gravel bars which lay between water and high water marks which are free of vegetation.
- Open fires are prohibited, including campfires, charcoal fires, cooking fires and warming fires. Portable cooking stoves using liquefied or bottled fuels and raised bed barbecues are allowed on sand or gravel bars which lay between water and high water marks which are free of vegetation.
- Possession of the following fire fighting equipment is required while traveling: one shovel and a one gallon or larger bucket.

For more information about fire season regulations, or to view a map of areas affected by these regulations, contact the Oregon Department of Forestry's unit office in your area:

- ODF Medford Unit, 5286 Table Rock Rd., Central Point. Phone: (541) 664-3328
- ODF Grants Pass Unit, 5375 Monument Drive, Grants Pass. Phone: (541) 474-3152

Current information about fire restrictions in the Medford and Grants Pass units is also available on the World Wide Web:

ODF Medford Unit: <http://oregon.gov/ODF/FIELD/MED/aboutus.shtml>

ODF Grants Pass Unit: <http://oregon.gov/ODF/FIELD/GP/aboutus.shtml>

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