



# NEWS

August 2, 2006

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 public use fire danger level on lands protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry's Southwest Oregon District climbs to "extreme" (red) at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, August 4. The Industrial Fire Precaution Level (IFPL) remains at Level II (two).

Fire precaution levels assigned by the Southwest Oregon District, located in Medford, affects state, private, county and Bureau of Land Management lands in Jackson and Josephine counties. The district has unit offices in Medford and Grants Pass.

Continued hot, dry weather throughout southwestern Oregon has significantly increased the probably that wildfires could threaten residential areas and forestlands. Many of the wildfires that have occurred in recent weeks on ODF-protected lands have been started by abandoned camp fires and escaped debris-burning fires. As of July 31, 102 fires have burned 102 acres. Only eight of these fires were caused by lightning.

Here is a summary of public use restrictions currently in effect:

- Debris burning, including burn barrels, is prohibited.
- Fireworks are prohibited.

- Camp fires are allowed only in designated campgrounds. This restriction includes charcoal-fired barbecues; however, stoves using liquefied or bottled fuels are allowed.
- Vehicles, including motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles, are not allowed on unimproved roads.
- Smoking is allowed only in a vehicle and only while on an improved road.

Beginning August 4, these additional public use fire restrictions will be in effect:

- The following activities will be disallowed between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.:
  - Chain saw use. During other hours, users must have an axe, shovel and fire extinguisher on-site, and provide a one-hour fire watch after using the saw.
  - Mowing dry grass (except for agricultural purposes, such as cutting hay).
  - Cutting, grinding or welding metal. During other hours, a water supply must be present at the work site and work may proceed only in a cleared area.

For more information about the Oregon Department of Forestry's fire season regulations, contact the unit office in your area:

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

Southwest Oregon District fire precaution level information is also posted on the World Wide Web at <http://oregon.gov/ODF/FIELD/SWO/SWOfire.shtml>

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