



NEWS

August 21, 2006

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SOUTHWEST OREGON NEWS MEDIA

Contacts: Greg Alexander, Medford Unit Forester, (541) 664-3328
Rick Dryer, Grants Pass Unit Forester, (541) 474-3152

CONTINUED DRY WEATHER INCREASES FIRE DANGER

The Oregon Department of Forestry is increasing fire danger restrictions in Jackson and Josephine counties as of Wednesday, August 23. These changes affect both public and industrial activities on forestlands protected by ODF's Southwest Oregon District, which includes state, private, county and Bureau of Land Management lands.

The public use fire danger level remains "extreme" (red) but the Industrial Fire Precaution Level (IFPL) climbs to Level III (three).

Continued hot and dry weather throughout southwest Oregon is significantly increasing the danger that wildfires could start in any part of the Southwest Oregon District, from the grassy river valleys to the higher-elevation forestlands. The restrictions target activities that commonly cause wildfires on these lands.

Here is a summary of the public fire danger restrictions taking effect as of 12:01 a.m.

Wednesday, August 23:

- 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.
- Chain saw use is prohibited
- Mowing dry grass, except for agricultural purposes such as cutting hay, is prohibited
- Cutting, grinding or welding metal is prohibited

Here is a summary of the restrictions on industrial operations under IFPL III taking effect as of 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, August 23:

- 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

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>

###