



# NEWS

September 15, 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

## **FIRE DANGER DROPS ON ODF-PROTECTED LANDS**

The Oregon Department of Forestry decreased its fire danger restrictions in Jackson and Josephine counties today because of cool, wet weather. The revised restrictions are effective immediately and apply to state, private, county and Bureau of Land Management lands protected by ODF's Southwest Oregon District.

The public use fire danger level is "high" (yellow) and the Industrial Fire Precaution Level (IFPL) is II (two). Fire restriction changes also affect the portion of the Rogue River Wild & Scenic Area between Grave Creek and Marial, where the fire danger level is also "high" (yellow).

Residents are reminded that debris burning is not permitted until the end of fire season.

Here is a summary of the public use fire danger restrictions now 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.
- Chain saw use is prohibited between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. 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, is prohibited between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.
- Cutting, grinding or welding metal is prohibited between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. During other hours, a water supply must be present at the work site and work may proceed only in a cleared area.

Here is a summary of the restrictions on industrial operations under IFPL II:

- The use of fire in any form is prohibited
- The use of power saws is prohibited, except at loading sites, between 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.
- The use of cable yarders is prohibited between 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.
- Blasting is prohibited between 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.
- Welding or cutting of metal is prohibited between 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.
- Fire suppression equipment must be on-site and watchman service must be provided

Below is a summary of the fire danger restrictions now in effect in the Wild and Scenic Area of the Rogue River between Grave Creek and Marial:

- Smoking is prohibited except in boats on the water, and on vegetation-free gravel bars and sand bars.
- Open fires are prohibited, including camp fires, cooking fires and warming fires. Portable cooking stoves using liquefied or bottled fuels, and charcoal fires for cooking and built in raised fire pans, are allowed on vegetation-free gravel bars and sand bars.
- Travelers shall carry a shovel and bucket (one-gallon size).
- Fireworks are prohibited.

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>

**###**