



# NEWS

July 5, 2008

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 RISES TO HIGH ON FORESTLANDS IN JACKSON AND JOSEPHINE COUNTIES**

The public use fire danger level on lands protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry's Southwest Oregon District climbs to "high" (yellow) at 12:01 a.m. on Monday, July 7. The Industrial Fire Precaution Level (IFPL) remains at Level I.

Fire prevention advisories will also change in the Wild and Scenic Section of the Rogue River, jointly protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest.

The fire danger level on Oregon Department of Forestry-protected lands has been "moderate" since fire season was declared on June 16. Fire precaution levels assigned by the Southwest Oregon District, located in Medford, affects state, private, county and Bureau of Land Management forestlands in Jackson and Josephine counties. The district has unit offices in Medford and Grants Pass.

Here is a summary of public use restrictions that will be in effect starting Monday:

- All open burning of debris will be prohibited. This includes burn barrels.
- Fireworks will be prohibited, except in cleared areas such as green lawns and driveways.

- Campfires will be allowed only in designated campgrounds. This restriction includes charcoal-fired barbecues; however, stoves using liquefied or bottled fuels will be allowed.
- Vehicles, including motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles, will not be allowed on unimproved roads.
- Smoking will be allowed only in a vehicle and only while on an improved road.
- The following activities will be disallowed between the hours of 1:00 p.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.

Fire restrictions will also change in the Wild and Scenic Section of the Rogue River. The Oregon Department of Forestry protects the section between Grave Creek and Marial, and the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest protects the section between Marial and Watson Creek. These restrictions take effect Monday:

- Smoking will be prohibited except in boats on the water, and on naturally vegetation-free gravel bars and sand bars below the river's high-water mark.
- Open fires will be prohibited, including camp fires, cooking fires and warming fires.
- Portable cooking stoves using liquefied or bottled fuels, and charcoal briquette fires for cooking and built in raised fire pans, will be allowed on naturally vegetation-free gravel bars and sand bars below the high-water mark. Ashes must be carried out.
- Travelers must carry a shovel and bucket (one-gallon size).
- Fireworks will be prohibited.

Fire restrictions on the Rogue River may change so please check with the Smullin Visitor Center located at the Rand National Historic Site at (541) 479-3735 or your local Forest Service office.

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 [www.swofire.oregon.gov](http://www.swofire.oregon.gov).

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