



# NEWS

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September 8, 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 LEVEL DROPS 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 drops to "high" (yellow) on Tuesday, Sept. 9. The Industrial Fire Precaution Level (IFPL) remains at Level II (two).

The fire prevention level is also reduced 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 "extreme" since Aug. 5. 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.

“With shorter days and cooler nights, we can now loosen the restrictions on power equipment use,” said ODF District Forester Dan Thorpe. “But we ask the public to continue to be very careful because fire season is a long way from being over.”

Here is a summary of public use restrictions in effect starting tomorrow:

- All open burning of debris is prohibited. This includes burn barrels.
- Fireworks are prohibited in forestland areas.
- Campfires are allowed only in designated campgrounds. This restriction includes charcoal-fired barbecues; however, stoves using liquefied or bottled fuels are allowed in other locations.
- 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.
- The following activities are disallowed between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.:
  - Chain saw use. 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). This restriction does not apply to green lawns.
  - Cutting, grinding or welding metal. A water supply must be present at the work site and work may proceed only in a cleared area.

Fire restrictions are also reduced 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 Tuesday:

- Smoking is 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 are 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, are 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 are 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.

“We would like to thank the public for exercising caution this summer and continuing to prevent human-caused wildfires on the Forest,” said M. J. Harvie, Aviation & Fire Staff Officer on the Rogue River-Siskiyou NF.

As fall hunting season begins, hunters are reminded of the dry conditions on the Forest and are encouraged to use extreme caution with campfires.

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

ODF 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).

Fire danger level information for the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest is available online at [www.fs.fed.us/r6/rogue-siskiyou/fire/index.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/rogue-siskiyou/fire/index.shtml).

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