



NEWS

July 26, 2005

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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HOT WEATHER PROMPTS INCREASED FIRE PRECAUTION LEVELS

Prolonged hot and dry weather throughout southwest Oregon is prompting increased fire restrictions on lands protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry's Southwest Oregon District, based in Central Point. The Industrial Fire Precaution Level (IFPL) climbs to "Level 2" at 12:01 a.m. on Thursday, July 28. The Public Use fire precaution level remains "High" (yellow); however, chain saws, mowers and other power-driven equipment may be used only during early morning and late evening hours.

These restrictions affect state, county, private and Bureau of Land Management lands in Jackson and Josephine counties.

Under IFPL 2, the following restrictions shall be in place as of July 28:

1. Commercial operators on forestlands are required to have fire suppression equipment on site and provide watchman service.
2. The use of fire in any form is prohibited
3. Power saws may not be operated between 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., except at loading sites
4. Cable yarding may not take place between 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.
5. Blasting is disallowed between 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.
6. Welding or cutting of metal may not take place between 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Public fire restrictions:

1. The use of motorized vehicles, motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles, is prohibited except on improved roads.
2. Chain saw use is prohibited between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Chain saw use is permitted at all other hours if the following fire fighting equipment is present with each operating saw: one axe, one shovel, and one operational 8-ounce or larger fire extinguisher. In addition, a fire watch is required at least one hour following the use of each saw.
3. Mowing of dry grass with power driven equipment is prohibited between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., except for the commercial culture and harvest of agricultural crops.
4. Smoking is prohibited while traveling, except in vehicles on improved roads.
5. Open fires to burn debris are prohibited; burn barrels are also disallowed. Campfires, charcoal fires, cooking fires and warming fires are allowed only in designated campgrounds.
6. Cutting, grinding and welding of metal is prohibited, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Cutting, grinding and welding of metal is permitted at all other hours, if conducted in a cleared area and if a water supply is present.

ODF's Southwest Oregon District protects 1.8 million acres of forestland. Fire season was declared on these lands June 27.

For more information about fire season regulations, or to view a map of areas affected by these regulations, contact the Oregon Department of Forestry's unit office in your area:

ODF Medford Unit, 5286 Table Rock Rd., Central Point. Phone: (541) 664-3328

ODF Grants Pass Unit, 5375 Monument Drive, Grants Pass. Phone: (541) 474-3152

Current information about fire restrictions on the Medford and Grants Pass units is also available on the World Wide Web:

ODF Medford Unit: <http://oregon.gov/ODF/FIELD/MED/aboutus.shtml>

ODF Grants Pass Unit: <http://oregon.gov/ODF/FIELD/GP/aboutus.shtml>

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