



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
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Bureau of Indian Affairs, Wildland Fire Management News Release

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High Fire Danger on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation



Whiteriver, Arizona - The danger of wildfire is **high** right now throughout the Fort Apache Indian Reservation and surrounding areas. Fire-risk conditions are rising with warmer weather and drier local vegetation.

Any unplanned human caused fire has the potential to cause loss of life, property, and valuable natural resources. Fire Management are urging visitors to use extreme caution with open flame, such as campfires, vehicle exhaust and smoking. Antler gatherers, remember, warming fires are illegal in undesignated campgrounds. In addition, remember that fireworks are illegal on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation.

STAGE I RESTRICTIONS – Reminder that Stage I Restrictions are in effect year-round on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation.

The following are not allowed on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation year-round:

1. Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire, coal or wood burning stove, any type of charcoal fueled broiler or open fire of any type in undeveloped areas.
2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, in a developed recreation site or while stopped in an area at least 3 feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable vegetation.

3. Using explosive material: (ie: fireworks, blasting caps or any incendiary device which may result in the ignition of flammable material.)
4. Welding, or operating an acetylene or other similar torch with open flame.
5. Operating or using any internal combustion engine without a spark arresting device properly installed, maintained and in effective working order meeting either.

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Understanding Fire Danger

- Rating Levels**
-  **5 EXTREME**
 -  **4 VERY HIGH**
 -  **3 HIGH**
 -  **2 MODERATE**
 -  **1 LOW**



See reverse side for more info about ratings and descriptions.

Ratings and Descriptions

 **5 EXTREME** Fires start quickly, spread furiously, and burn intensely. All fires are potentially serious. Development into high intensity burning will usually be faster and occur from smaller fires than in the very high fire danger class. Every fire start has the potential to become large. Expect extreme, erratic behavior. **NO OUTDOOR BURNING SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN AREAS WITH EXTREME FIRE BEHAVIOR.** Fire restrictions are generally in effect.

 **4 VERY HIGH** Fires start easily from all causes and immediately after ignition, spread rapidly and increase quickly in intensity. Spot fires are a constant danger. Fires burning in light fuels may quickly develop high intensity characteristics such as long-distance spotting and fire whirlwinds when they burn in heavier fuels. Both suppression and mop-up will require an extended and very thorough effort. Outdoor burning is not recommended. Fire restrictions may be in effect.

 **3 HIGH** All fine dead fuels ignite readily and fires start easily from most causes. Unattended brush and camp fires are likely to escape. Fires spread rapidly and short-distance spotting is common. Fires may become serious and their control difficult unless they are attacked successfully while small. Outdoor burning should be restricted to early morning and late evening hours.

 **2 MODERATE** Fires can start from most accidental causes, but with the exception of lightning fires in some areas, the number of starts is generally low. Expect moderate flame length and rate of spread. Short-distance spotting may occur, but is not persistent. Fires are not likely to become serious and control is relatively easy. Although controlled burning can be done without creating a hazard, routine caution should be taken.

 **1 LOW** Fuels do not ignite readily from small firebrands although a more intense heat source, such as lightning, may start fires in duff or punky wood. Weather and fuel conditions will lead to slow fire spread, low intensity and relatively easy control with light mop-up. There is little danger of spotting. Controlled burns can usually be executed with reasonable safety.

 **Red Flag Warning** A short term, temporary warning indicating the presence of dangerous combinations of temperature, wind, relative humidity, fuel or drought conditions which can contribute to new fires or rapid spread of existing fires. Can be issued at any Fire Danger level.