

RESTRICTIONS/CLOSURES

STAGE I AND STAGE II RESTRICTIONS

There will be two fire restriction stages: Stage I and Stage II. Each agency/tribe within a fire restriction area must write its own agency/tribal document that authorizes the restrictions within its jurisdiction. Each agency/tribe is responsible for using its own format and having their legal counsel review the document to assure it is correct and enforceable.

To reduce confusion and standardize the restrictions, the following criteria will be used in all restriction documents:

STAGE I

The following acts are prohibited until further notice:

1. Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire or campfire except within a developed recreation site, or improved site.
2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials.

Exemptions:

1. Persons with a written permit that specifically authorizes the otherwise prohibited act.
2. Persons using a device solely fueled by liquid petroleum or LPG fuels that can be turned on and off.
3. Persons conducting activities in those designated areas where the activity is specifically authorized by written posted notice.
4. Any Federal, State, or local officer or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.
5. All land within a city boundary is exempted.
6. Other exemptions unique to each agency/tribe.

An exemption does not absolve an individual or organization from liability or responsibility for any fire started by the exempted activity.

STAGE II

The following acts are prohibited until further notice:

1. Building maintaining, attending, or using a fire or campfire.

2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials.

3. The following acts are prohibited from 1:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.:

- a. Operating any internal combustion engine.
- b. Welding, or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame.
- c. Using an explosive.

A patrol is required for two hours following cessation of all work as described above.

4. Operating motorized vehicles off designated roads and trails.

Exemptions:

1. Persons with a written permit that specifically authorizes the otherwise prohibited act.

2. Persons using a device fueled solely by liquid petroleum or LPG fuels that can be turned on and off.

3. Operating motorized vehicles on designated roads and trails.

4. Emergency repair of public utilities and railroads as per attached conditions.

5. Persons conducting activities in those designated areas where the activity is specifically authorized by written posted notice.

6. Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.

7. All land within a city boundary is exempted.

8. Other exemptions unique to each agency/tribe.

An exemption does not absolve an individual or organization from liability or responsibility for any fire started by the exempted activity.

CLOSURE GUIDELINES

The Geographic Agency Administrators within the Northern Rockies Geographic Area should review these evaluation guidelines and determine threshold levels that substantiate the need for closures.

Examples include:

- Potential loss of life due to explosive fire conditions.
- Potential for extreme or blowup fire behavior.

- Stage II restrictions are not effective in reducing the number of human-caused fires.
- Resources across the geographic area are at a critical shortage level.

The following standard exemptions will be allowed during closure and will be noted on all closure documents.

Exemptions:

1. Persons with a written permit that specifically authorizes the otherwise prohibited act.
2. Emergency repair of public utilities and railroads as per attached conditions.
3. Persons conducting activities in those designated areas where the activity is specifically authorized by written posted notice.
4. Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.
5. All land within a city boundary is exempted.
6. Other exemptions unique to each agency/tribe.