

NEWS RELEASE

**USDA Forest Service
Coronado National Forest
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT NUMBER FOR FIREWOOD ON MT. LEMMON CHANGES

TUCSON, AZ (September 23, 2004) – Those interested in obtaining firewood on the Santa Catalina Ranger District have a new contact phone number. To make an appointment for a personal-use firewood permit, call Pete Michaelson or Darwwol McKskil at (520) 749-7700.

Project Coordinator Pete Michaelson said the project, which began Sept. 10 and will end Oct. 23, is proceeding very well. Public response, Michaelson said, has been steady since permits became available.

Permits are issued from the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center Mondays through Thursdays by appointment only, and Friday afternoons (12:30 to 4:00 p.m.) and Saturday mornings (8:00 a.m. to noon) at Palisades Visitor Center located at Milepost 18 on the Mt. Lemmon Highway.

The available firewood consists primarily of pine mixed with some oak, cut into three- to four-foot lengths. Permits for ¼ cord of wood are free of charge, while the cost of a permit for one full cord is \$50.00. Permittees may take chainsaws to cut the wood into fireplace-sized pieces onsite, if desired. The closest emergency medical services are available at the Mt. Lemmon Fire Station, just below Summerhaven.

The area from which the firewood can be collected is located along both sides of the Mt. Lemmon Highway from Palisades Ranger Station/Visitor Center to the Summerhaven boundary. Assistance for persons with disabilities will be available by appointment for those who need help loading the wood.

Permittees should be aware of delays due to the road construction project on Mt. Lemmon Highway. For information on delays the phone number for the Construction Information Line is 751-9405.

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