

# **KLAMATH** **NATIONAL FOREST**

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# **NEWS**

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## **Fire Restrictions Lifted, However Fire Season is Still With Us**

**Yreka, CA** – Due to cooler temperatures and snow in the higher country, the Klamath National Forest has lifted its' fire restrictions order.

“The weather has turned very cool this past week. There was enough moisture from the storm that passed over the Forest last weekend so that the “burning index” levels have dropped to an acceptable range. We can now lift our restrictions,” said Jaime Tarne, Klamath National Forest Fire Prevention Specialist.

The lifting of the Forest’s fire restrictions now allows visitors to have open campfires, as well as the use of welding equipment, smoking, and the operation of internal combustion engines. It is important to note that other National Forests surrounding the Klamath National Forest may or may not have lifted their fire restrictions. Visitors are encouraged to contact these other Forest directly. As is the standard, a valid California Campfire Permit is required in order to have a campfire. Permits are available at all of the Klamath National Forest offices, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF), as well as Bureau of Land Management offices.

Fire management officials also stress that the Northern California fire season is not yet over. “We still have the larger fuels in the forest that are fairly dry,” stated Tarne. “The danger of fires starting in the Forest is still quite possible.” Forest visitors are asked to use caution and follow these simple steps when managing campfires:

### **When Building a Campfire**

- Use an existing fire ring in an undeveloped site or campground.
- Check for overhanging branches, steep slopes, rotten stumps, logs, dry grass, and leaves that may catch on fire.
- Scrape away any litter, duff, or burnable material within a 10-foot-diameter of the fire circle.

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- Pile any extra wood several feet away from the fire.
- Start with small twigs and gradually add larger pieces of wood.
- Keep the campfire small.
- Never leave the fire unattended as even a low breeze can spread flaming material.
- Keep plenty of water handy, along with a shovel, for throwing dirt on the fire if it gets out of control.

### **Extinguishing a campfire**

- When ready to leave the campfire, drown it with water.
- Make sure all embers, coals, and sticks are thoroughly soaked.
- Move the rocks near the edges of the ring, look, and feel for burning material underneath.
- Stir the entire area, and add more water.
- Mix remains with sand, soil, and more water until all material is cold to the touch.
- Make sure no roots are burning.
- Do not just bury the coals - they can smolder and flare up.

### **Minimizing campfire impacts**

- Pack out all trash.
- Consider the potential of damage to the forest due to a wildfire.
- Camp in an area where wood is abundant, enabling the regeneration of wood sources to keep pace with the demand for firewood.
- Clean out any old ashes or debris from the pit. If you relocate ashes, touch them to be sure they are out cold.

For more information concerning this, or any other aspect of the Forest Service, please stop by a local Forest Service office.

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**Media Note:** The CDF state-wide burn ban is still in effect. This ban disallows all non-agricultural burning and residential dooryard burning. This ban affects all piles, incinerators, and other non-agricultural burning on State Responsibility Area lands. All agriculture burning still requires a permit and an on-site inspection by CDF personnel prior to the burning activity.

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