



News Release

United States Department of
Agriculture - Forest Service

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Illegal Campfire Causes Blaze

An illegal campfire was the cause of at least one of two small wildfires over the weekend, September 23-24. One of the fires occurred in the Middle Fork of the Feather River. A passing air tanker enroute to another fire spotted the fire and dropped retardant on it, slowing it down while firefighters hiked into the fire. "These fires could have gotten quite large if we didn't have resources available from the Bassett's Fire on the Tahoe National Forest. They burned like it was August, not late September," said Allan Setzer, Assistant Fire Management Officer on the Plumas National Forest. The forest has not had measurable rain since June.

Historically, September and October are the months when the largest and most damaging wildfires occur in California.

Campers, hunters, and other visitors are reminded that fire restrictions remain in effect on the Plumas National Forest. The fine for an illegal campfire is \$350.00. A person responsible for starting a wildfire as a result of an illegal campfire may be charged with the full cost of suppression efforts.

Current fire restrictions on the Plumas National Forest are:

1. No open fires, campfires or charcoal fires will be allowed outside of designated areas (see attached list) EVEN with a valid California Campfire Permit. However, lanterns and portable stoves using gas, jellied petroleum or pressurized liquid fuel are not restricted as long as the forest visitor has a valid California Campfire Permit.

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2. No smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle, building, or designated recreation site.

3. No operations of internal combustion engines will be allowed except on forest development roads or within designated recreation sites.

A list of designated areas is available at all Forest Service offices and on the internet at:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/plumas>.

Key points:

1. **An illegal campfire was the cause of a small wildfire on the Plumas National Forest over the weekend, September 23-24.**
2. **Fire restrictions remain in effect. No fires, smoking, or operation of internal combustion engines are allowed outside of designated areas.**