



Forest Service

Cibola National Forest and
National Grasslands
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News Release

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Magdalena, Mountainair, Mt. Taylor and Sandia Ranger Districts implement Stage I Fire Restrictions starting Friday, Oct 23, 2020

Order: 03-0703

Albuquerque, NM – October 22, 2020. The Cibola National Forest will implement Stage 1 fire restrictions at **8 a.m. on Friday, October 23, 2020** on the Mount Taylor, Magdalena, Mountainair and Sandia Ranger Districts.

The Carson National Forest and Santa Fe National Forest are also entering Stage 1 fire restrictions on Friday, an indication of the widespread risk of unseasonal wildfires across northern New Mexico.

The purpose of the Stage 1 restriction is to reduce the risk of human-caused wildfires during periods of high fire danger and severe fire weather conditions. The restrictions will also help protect the health and safety of firefighters and communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

PROHIBITIONS:

1. Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire, or stove fire, except in Forest Service developed camp and picnic grounds where grills and stoves are provided by the Forest Service. 36 CFR 261.52(a)
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 material. 36 CFR 261.52(d)
3. Possessing, discharging or using any kind of firework or other pyrotechnic device. 36 CFR 261.52(f)

EXEMPTIONS:

Pursuant to Title 36 CFR 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from the provisions in this Order:

1. Persons with a Forest Service permit specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.
2. Any Federal, State or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty.
3. Resident owners or lessees of land and holders of Forest Service recreation special use authorizations within the restricted area are exempt from Prohibition No. 1 above ONLY, provided such fires are within a permanent structure.
4. Persons using a device solely fueled by liquid petroleum or LPG fuels that can be turned on and off. Such devices can only be used in an area that is barren or cleared of all overhead and surrounding flammable materials within three (3) feet of the device.





RESTRICTED AREA:

All National Forest System lands, roads and trails within the boundary of the within the Cibola National Forest, Cibola, McKinley, Socorro, Catron, Sierra, Torrance, Valencia, Bernalillo, Sandoval, and Lincoln Counties within the State of New Mexico as depicted on the attached map at **Exhibit A**.

This Order will be in effect at 8:00 AM on Friday October 23, 2020 and shall remain in effect until December 31, 2020 or until rescinded, whichever occurs first. The order 03-0703 imposing fire restrictions this Friday is posted under [Alerts & Notices](#) on the Cibola NF & NGs website.

Any violation of this prohibition is punishable as a Class B misdemeanor by a fine of not more than \$5000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or by imprisonment for not more than six (6) months, or both. [Title 16 USC 551, and 18 USC 3559, 3571 and 3581].

If you have any questions about the fire restrictions, please contact:

Magdalena Ranger District: 575-854-2281

Mountainair Ranger District: 505-847-2990

Mt. Taylor Ranger District: 505-287-8833

Sandia Ranger District: 505-281-3304

Cibola National Forest & Grasslands Supervisor Office: 505-346-3900.

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