

Purpose

The intent of the Fire Restriction Plan is to minimize the potential for wildfires that may threaten the public's health, safety, and welfare. Human starts are the second leading cause of fire in the Coconino National Forest, following lightning starts. Precautions exercised by CCPR staff and park users during high fire risk conditions (drought) will help ensure community safety and protection of park values and assets.

Fire Restriction Team

The following CCPR staff will comprise the team: Community Relations Coordinator, Natural Resources Supervisor, Maintenance and Operations Manager, Events Coordinator. The team will work collaboratively to implement the plan.

Team Leader

The team leader will be the Maintenance and Operations Manager. First alternate will be the Natural Resources Supervisor. The team will meet first when forest conditions appear to warrant fire restrictions. The team will assign tasks necessary to implement the fire restriction plan. Once fire restriction dates are determined, the team will educate all park staff on plan implementation. The Maintenance and Operations Manager will contact all park staff throughout the season to provide updates as conditions change. Staff briefings may be necessary prior to changes in the level of fire restrictions.

Decision to Initiate Restrictions

Coconino County Parks and Recreation will implement fire restriction levels when:

- Coconino National Forest implements fire restrictions. Coconino County Parks and Recreation will implement a fire restriction level that most closely matches that of the Coconino National Forest. This will take place even if the Coconino County Board of Supervisors has not issued a resolution on county-wide fire restrictions.
- Coconino County Board of Supervisors issues a resolution on county-wide fire restrictions. Coconino County Parks and Recreation will implement the resolution and may include additional restrictions unique to County Park operations as represented in each fire restriction level.

Coconino County Parks and Recreation will implement the fire restrictions on all park properties; any exemptions must be approved by the CCPR Director. The Maintenance and Operations Manager will be the liaison with the County's Emergency Manager.

The Maintenance and Operations Manager will discuss the decision to initiate fire restrictions with the CCPR Director. The Director will make the decision to implement restrictions and notify the Board of Supervisors and other County departments.

Community Notification of Restrictions

Notification of the restrictions to the following community members will be made as soon as possible.

1. Media:

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The Community Relations Coordinator will prepare the press release, contact media, and coordinate with the County public information staff.

2. Law Enforcement:

County Sheriff's office will be notified of restrictions, and requested to increase patrols of parks.

3. Neighbors:

Where appropriate, landowners adjacent to parks will receive notification of park restrictions with emergency contact information.

4. Fire Departments:

Local fire officials (i.e. City of Flagstaff, Summit Fire Department, Highlands Fire Department, Ponderosa Fire Advisory Council) will be notified of restrictions and requested to coordinate restrictions with CCPR staff as appropriate.

5. Partners:

Luke Air Force Base Recreation Area, Flagstaff Archers, Flagstaff Extreme, Coconino County Community Services, Coconino County Emergency Services, Coconino County Department of Facilities, Adult Probation, Coconino County Department of Public Works, KVID, Fair groups are some of the partners. This list is by no means exhaustive and all partners will receive notification of restrictions as that information becomes available.

6. Renters:

(Such as Special events and ramada reservations) Staff will post brochures to reservations and contracts and alert renters with reservations as soon as possible.

Park Operations Guidelines

Signage & Supplies

1. Park entry signs: to be located at entrance to all parks.
2. Fire rating signs: to be located at entrances to all parks (with park entry signs), and updated daily or as conditions change. The Maintenance and Operations Manager will consult with the County's Emergency Manager on daily fire ratings.
3. Park use signs: to be located throughout the parks at picnic areas, trailheads, structures, use areas, kiosks, etc.
4. Barricades will be used to block closure areas.
5. Grills will be signed for no use and made inactive with lockdown, yellow caution tape or some other means of securing grills to disable use.

Visitor Education

Flyers will be created listing the fire restrictions. All CCPR vehicles will be stocked with flyers. Staff are to distribute flyers to park visitors as they are encountered throughout the parks. Facility renters will be provided with appropriate number of flyers to distribute to event participants.

Light Fuels Reduction

Once fire restrictions appear imminent, staff will remove light fuels from visitor use areas and structures. Light fuels include weeds, grasses, pine needles, dead-and-down wood. Visitor use areas include but are not limited to: picnic areas, campgrounds, arenas, and along the roadsides.

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Fire Response:

Upon notice of a fire:

1. Call 911 immediately
2. Alert staff and supervisor
3. Clear park visitors from immediate vicinity of fire
4. When feasible and safe, staff will initiate fire suppression with CCPR water truck
5. Upon arrival of certified firefighting personnel, CCPR staff removes themselves so as not to impede the firefighters. The Maintenance and Operations Manager will serve as the CCPR liaison to the Incident Commander.

Staff will respond immediately to extinguish small fires (i.e. campfires, barbeque grills, etc.).

All CCPR vehicles shall be equipped with the following, when possible:

- Fire extinguisher
- Bucket, shovel, axe/pulaski
- Two five-gallon containers of water or a fire pump

The CCPR water truck is to be filled with water, equipped with fire hose and nozzle, and accessible at all times.

Park Maintenance and Operations Restrictions

In accordance with the appropriate level of fire restrictions, the following will apply:

- Welding will occur only within enclosed buildings. *Exceptions for such are at the discretion of the Maintenance and Operations Manager.*
- Chainsaws use shall be limited according to USFS restrictions.
- Vehicles permitted on improved surfaces only.
- Construction activities will follow all CCPR restrictions.
- Motorized equipment or tools and their maintenance permitted on improved surfaces only.

Park Evacuation Plans

To be developed.

Exceptions

Any exceptions to the fire restrictions shall be approved only by the Parks and Recreation Director within the scope of the Board of Supervisor's fire restriction resolution.

Definitions

CCPR: Coconino County Parks and Recreation Department

USFS: United States Forest Service

Improved Surface: areas cleared of all vegetation, typically cinder or gravel surface

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| <u>Visitor Use Guidelines & Restrictions</u> | |
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| Level I Fire Restrictions | |
| <i>Allowable activities</i> | <i>Prohibited activities</i> |
| Camping | |
| Camping permitted only in designated campground | |
| Campfires | |
| | Campfires are prohibited |
| Barbecues | |
| Liquid gas stoves are permitted only on improved surfaces | Charcoal/Wood grills are prohibited |
| Smoking | |
| Smoking permitted during events within designated areas only | Smoking prohibited outdoors |
| Smoking permitted within an enclosed vehicle | |
| Parking | |
| Vehicle parking permitted only on improved parking areas | Vehicle parking is prohibited on grassy and forested areas |
| Equipment | |
| | Chainsaws and other small motorized equipment prohibited by park users |
| Level II Fire Restrictions | |
| No Campfires or Barbecue Grills | |
| No Smoking | |
| Trails Closed | |
| <i>Allowable activities</i> | <i>Prohibited activities</i> |
| Parking | |
| Vehicle parking is permitted only on improved gravel or cinder parking areas | Vehicle parking is prohibited on grassy and forested areas. |
| Events | |
| Previously scheduled events to be approved by Department at least one week prior to event | No events within unimproved areas of the park |
| Equipment | |
| | Chainsaws and other motorized equipment prohibited |
| Level III Fire Restrictions | |
| Parks will be closed to public use | |