



SHERIFF JOE DISALVO

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Pitkin County Sheriff Implements STAGE 1 Fire Restrictions In Pitkin County Effective July 2, 2020, at 12:01 a.m.

Pitkin County, Colorado – June 30, 2020 – Pitkin County Sheriff Joe DiSalvo, with the support of all Pitkin County Fire Chiefs, is placing Pitkin County under Stage 1 fire restrictions effective 12:01 AM Thursday, July 2, 2020. The new fire restrictions are in effect until further notice and cover all State, public, private, incorporated and unincorporated lands within Pitkin County. Land management officials from the US Forest Service - White River National Forest and Bureau of Land Management are implementing their own similar restrictions.

"The current energy release component data for our region supports this move into Stage 1 fire restrictions. Additionally, long-range forecast data from our partners at the National Weather Service indicates a prolonged period of above-average temperatures and below-average precipitation for our region. Placing Pitkin County into Stage 1 fire restrictions ahead of the busy July Fourth holiday weekend and beyond is the most responsible course of action." Joe DiSalvo, Pitkin County Sheriff.

"Although we are under strict public health orders in Pitkin County, we are seeing an unprecedented number of visitors to our area ahead of the upcoming holiday weekend. It is critical that all citizens and visitors in Pitkin County abide by these Stage 1 fire restrictions in addition to the Five Commitments of Containment established by Pitkin County Public Health." Scott Thompson, Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Fire Chief.

All residents and visitors who violate these fire restrictions will face penalties to include fines between \$500 and \$1000 and possible jail time. Additionally, the public is reminded of the potential criminal consequences for violations of the current Public Health Order. As a reminder, the Pitkin County Public Health Five Commitments of Containment are:

- Maintain a 6-foot distance with other individuals
- Wash your hands often
- Cover your face in public
- Stay home when you are sick
- Seek testing immediately and self-report if you have any symptoms

The fire restrictions shall apply to the following persons and activities:

- A. Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire or campfire except within a developed recreation site, or improved site to include a fire ring/pit.
- B. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle, or building, at a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area of at least 3 feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material.
- C. Operating or using an internal or external combustion engine without an approved spark-arresting device properly installed, maintained, and in effective working order meeting either the USDA Forest Service Standards or appropriate Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) recommended practices.
- D. Use of any personal fireworks or explosive requiring fuses or blasting caps, including exploding targets, as defined by Colorado Revised Statute 12-28-101 (8).

The restrictions stated above exclude the following:

- 1. Persons with a valid written permit from the Pitkin County Sheriff, or the fire district within which the fire is to occur specifically authorizing the prohibited act.
- 2. Any Federal, State, or local officer or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.
- 3. Any fires contained within a liquid fuel or gas fuel stove, fireplaces within buildings, charcoal grill fires at private residences, and fires located within permanent fire pits or fire grates to the extent those pits or grates are located in developed picnic grounds, campgrounds or recreational sites.
- 4. Burning of irrigation ditches located within and completely surrounded by irrigated farmlands, where such burning is necessary for crop survival, and a specific written permit has been granted for such burning, in advance, by the fire district having jurisdiction.
- 5. Campfires or bonfires required in religious ceremonies, for which a Federal agency, the Fire District and the County Sheriff has granted a valid written permit in advance.

Knowingly or recklessly burning during the restriction period is illegal and legal actions will be taken against individuals in violation under CRS 30-15-410 and Pitkin County Resolution 96.

If you have any questions please contact your local fire district, district Ranger office:

Aspen Fire Protection District -- 970-925-5532
Carbondale & Rural Fire Protection District -- 970-963-2491
Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority - 970-340-7040
Pitkin County Sheriff's Office -- 970-920-5300
White River National Forest -- 970-963-2255

PITKIN COUNTY STAGE 1 FIRE RESTRICTIONS

ALLOWED



Professional fireworks displays are permitted (with a valid, signed fireworks permit only)



Fires in permanent fire pits at private residences or within developed recreational sites such as a campground, or picnic area.



Chimneys, fire pits, and tiki torches at private residences or within a developed park, campground, or picnic area supervised by a responsible adult.



Fires contained within liquid fueled or gas fueled stoves, lanterns, or heating devices.



NOT ALLOWED



Personal use of all fireworks is prohibited.



Any fire or campfire, not within a permanently constructed fire grate in a developed park, campground, private residence, or picnic area.



Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area of at least six feet diameter that is barren or cleared of all combustible material.



Explosive Targets



Operating or using any internal or external combustion engine without a spark-arresting device properly installed, maintained, and in effective working order



Welding or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame EXCEPT in cleared areas of at least 10 ft in diameter and in possession of a chemical pressurized fire extinguisher.