



Pueblo County Sheriff's Office

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News Release

For Immediate Release
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Residents Urged to Be Aware of High Fire Danger; Adhere to Restrictions

Pueblo, CO: The Pueblo County Sheriff's Office reminds residents that the county remains in Stage 1 fire restrictions, which prohibits most types of open burning, the sale and use of fireworks without a permit and restrictions on outdoor smoking.

Sheriff Kirk M. Taylor, who is the fire warden for the county, implemented Stage 1 restrictions on April 13 due to the high fire danger that persists in the region.

"With warmer temperatures, increased wind and low humidity, I want to urge residents to be alert that conditions throughout the county remain very ripe for wildland fires," said Sheriff Taylor. "I remind residents that we are in fire restrictions and absolutely no open burning is allowed."

Although Red Flag Warnings, which prohibit burning based on the daily conditions, are still being issued in Pueblo County, residents are reminded that on days when a Red Flag warning is not declared, Stage 1 Restrictions still prohibit most types of burning.

Stage 1 fire restrictions prohibit:

- Open burning, except fires and campfires within constructed fire grates inside developed camp and picnic grounds, charcoal grills and wood burning stoves at private residences. These areas must be cleared of all flammable materials. (Exemptions allowed for agricultural burning on a per case basis may be granted by appropriate fire jurisdictions).
- The sale or use of fireworks without a permit.
- Outdoor smoking except inside vehicle or stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren of all flammable materials.

Violations of the fire restrictions can result in fines and mandatory court appearances.



Spring is a good time to prepare your home and property to be fire safe by developing defensible space, creating a family emergency plan and making a 72-hour emergency supply kit, should you have to evacuate your home. As residents do spring cleaning, they are urged to create a defensible space around their property by clearing weeds, brush or other natural vegetation away from any structures. Creating such space can decrease fire damage to a structure and allows space for firefighting operations.

For residents in rural areas of the county, prepare your property by making sure your address is clearly marked, create a livestock evacuation plan and have spare keys, combinations and property maps available for firefighters

Here are some tips to reduce the risk of your home and property becoming fuel for a wildfire.

- Clear leaves and other debris from gutters, eaves, porches and decks.
- Remove dead vegetation and other items from under your deck or porch and within 10-feet of the house.
- Screen or box-in areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating.
- Remove flammable materials (firewood stacks, propane tanks) within 30 feet of your home's foundation and outbuildings, including garages and sheds.
- Prune trees so the lowest branches are 6 to 10 feet from the ground.
- Keep your lawn hydrated and maintained. Trim dead foliage from bushes. Dry grass and shrubs are fuel for wildfire.
- Dispose debris and lawn cuttings quickly to reduce fuel for fire.
- Inspect shingles or roof tiles. Replace or repair those that are loose or missing.
- Cover exterior attic vents with metal wire mesh no larger than 1/8 inch to prevent sparks from entering a home.

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