

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, PLEASE

DATE: July 28th, 2023

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Fire Danger Increases to **Extreme** on July 29th Public Shutdown Begins

The Oregon Department of Forestry's Southwest Oregon District and City of Ashland will increase fire danger to Extreme (Red) on Saturday July 29th, at 12:01 a.m. ***In areas of dead and dry vegetation***, all gas-powered machinery, mowing, and welding is banned **at all times** of the day unless under a permit.

Work in green, irrigated landscapes is allowed at any time. Please do not call to report normal yard maintenance in irrigated landscapes.

EXTREME Fire Danger Restrictions for City of Ashland

- Outdoor Debris Burning is Prohibited in Declared Fire Season
- Outdoor Fire Pits and Appliances are prohibited. Propane appliances and BBQs are allowed at private residences, but public areas may be closed by Ashland Parks and Recreation.
- Fireworks are prohibited throughout the year within the City of Ashland.
- Sky Lanterns are prohibited throughout the year within the City of Ashland.

EXTREME Fire Danger Restrictions for City of Ashland (in areas of dry vegetation only)

Beginning Saturday morning at 12:01 a.m., the following public fire restrictions will take effect:

- The use of power saws is prohibited, excluding electric chainsaws.
- The cutting, grinding and welding of metal is prohibited.
- The mowing of dry or dead grass is prohibited.
- The operation of any other spark-emitting internal combustion engine not specifically mentioned above is prohibited.

The following fire prevention regulations are currently in effect and will remain in effect until the fire danger level drops significantly:

- Smoking is prohibited while traveling, except in vehicles on improved roads, in boats on the water, and designated locations.

ASHLAND FIRE & RESCUE

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- Debris burning, including the use of burn barrels, is prohibited.
- Open fires are prohibited, including campfires, charcoal fires, cooking fires and warming fires, except in approved fire rings at designated campgrounds. In other locations clear of vegetation, portable cooking stoves using liquefied or bottled fuels are allowed.
- Fireworks on or within 1/8th of a mile of ODF-protected land are prohibited.
- Any electric fence controller in use shall be listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory or be certified by the Department of Consumer and Business Services; and operated in compliance with the manufacturer's fire-safe instructions.
- The use of exploding targets is prohibited.
- The use of tracer ammunition or any bullet with a pyrotechnic charge in its base is prohibited.
- Motor vehicles, including motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles, may only be used on improved roads free of flammable vegetation, except when used for the commercial culture and harvest of agricultural crops.
- Possession of the following firefighting equipment is required while traveling, except on state highways, county roads and driveways: one shovel and one gallon of water or one 2.5 pound or larger fire extinguisher. All-terrain vehicles and motorcycles must be equipped with one 2.5 pound or larger fire extinguisher.

Under IFPL III, the following are prohibited between 1:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.:

- Power saws at loading sites;
- Loading or hauling of any product or material;
- Blasting;
- Welding, cutting, or grinding of metal;
- Any other spark emitting operation not specifically mentioned.

What is NOT covered by these restrictions?

- Electric powered machinery such as weed whackers and electric saws
- Any work (gas powered machinery included) in a green and irrigated landscape is allowed at any time during fire season.

Find the most current fire danger and restrictions at www.ashland.or.us/fireseason or by contacting Ashland Fire & Rescue at 541-482-2770.

Here's what to do today to [get ready for wildfire](#):

- CLEAN all debris from your roof and gutter. If you can't do this safely, hire someone.
- RAKE away anything flammable including [all bark mulch](#) within 5 feet from your home, including fences, decks, and outbuildings.
- MAKE your address clearly visible to first responders.
- Remove flammable bushes and small trees [within 30 feet of your home](#) and outbuildings.

Are you ready to [evacuate your home](#) today? Ashland follows the state and national evacuation protocol called **READY, SET, GO! (Level 1, 2, and 3)**

- Create an [evacuation plan](#) for your household. Make a list of your priorities.
- Sign up for [Nixle emergency notifications](#) from the City of Ashland. This is how we'll notify you to be ready and when to evacuate. Notifications can arrive via text, phone, and email.
- Have an idea where you'd shelter overnight (friends who don't live in Ashland, hotel, or camping). Public shelters may be available depending on capacity.
- Have essential files easy to grab and copies saved elsewhere. Update insurance policies and catalog your belongings, which can be done via video and uploaded to cloud-based storage.

Additional information can be obtained as follows:

- **Ashland Emergency Alerts:** ashland.or.us/nixle
- **Fire Danger:** ashland.or.us/fireseason
- **Fire Adapted Ashland:** fireadaptedashland.org
- **Evacuation Info:** ashland.or.us/evacuate
- **Smoke and Health:** smokewiseashland.org

Regional fire information can be found at the ODF website: www.swofire.com and <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/>

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