

Due to the current warm and windy weather conditions, dry fuels and the occurrence of recent wildland fires, Stage I fire restrictions have been implemented for Archuleta County. Everyone is asked to be very cautious and use common sense with fire this time of year.

The following acts are prohibited until further notice:

(a) Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire, coal or wood burning stove, any type of charcoal fueled broiler, or open fire of any type in undeveloped areas. The fire restrictions do not include charcoal fires in suitable containers or gas grills for barbecues at private residences or fires within designated campground pits with protective grates; however, such fires should not be left unattended and should be fully extinguished after use. The fire restriction also does not include camp stoves, grills, or lights fueled by bottled gas, or pressurized liquid fuel, specifically designed for the purpose of camp cooking or illumination which shall not be left unattended and shall be fully extinguished after use.

(b) Agricultural Burning. Burning of crop land, fields, rangeland, debris burning, slash piles, prescribed burning and weed burning are prohibited.

(c) Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, in a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least 3 feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable vegetation.

(d) Using explosive material (i.e., fireworks, blasting caps, or any incendiary device which may result in the ignition of flammable material). The fire restrictions do not include local community fireworks displays that have been, or may be, approved and permitted by the Archuleta Country Sheriff.

(e) Operating or using any internal combustion engine is prohibited unless it is equipped with a working spark-arresting device. The device must be properly installed, maintained and must meet either:

- i. Dept. of Agriculture, Forest Service Standard 5100-1a;**
- or**
- ii. Appropriate Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) recommended practice J355(b) and J350(a)**

(f) The following requirements apply to all welding and cutting operations. Firefighting hand tools shall be readily available. During welding, a combination of fire extinguishers with a combined capacity of 40 lbs or a pressurized water supply shall be immediately accessible. When welding or cutting in an area that a fire may ignite, a person shall be designated as a fire watch. The area surrounding the work shall be inspected at least one (1) hour after the hot work is completed.

(g) Oil and gas operations are required to comply with the requirements of the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission Rules for Fire Prevention and Protection, Rule 606A.

(h) Any gas escaping from a well during drilling operations shall be, so far as practical, conducted to a safe distance from the well site and flammable vegetation, and burned. Operators are also required to notify Archuleta County Combined Dispatch at 970 731-2160 in advance of any flaring when it is anticipated, and in all other cases as soon as possible, but no more than two hours after the flaring has occurred.

The fire restrictions hereby proclaimed are effective May 1, 2018 and shall remain in effect until amended or rescinded by the Archuleta County Sheriff or the Archuleta Board of County Commissioners.