



**San Juan National Forest**

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[www.fs.usda.gov/sanjuan/](http://www.fs.usda.gov/sanjuan/)

 @SanJuanNF



# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **The Fourth of July - Know before You Go; Wildfire Safety is Everyone's Responsibility**

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**DURANGO, Colorado –June 29, 2018** – Wildfire prevention is everyone's responsibility. As we celebrate Independence Day, the San Juan National Forest encourages the public to follow Stage 2 fire restrictions and be careful with all combustible materials to prevent human-caused fires. Fireworks are ALWAYS prohibited on federal lands.

Before heading outdoors, be sure to “know before you go!” Public land management agencies have imposed fire restrictions to reduce the risk of human-caused fires during periods of high fire danger. Fire officials and land managers evaluate weather conditions, occurrence of human caused fires, and the availability of adequate firefighting resources in making the determination to enact fire restrictions.

As you celebrate Independence Day with family and friends, please do so safely. Campfires and barbecues can create great memories, but they can also pose serious dangers if they are not approached with caution. Abandoned campfires are the main cause of unwanted human-caused wildfires accounting for about 72% of the human-caused wildfires on the San Juan National Forest. Stage 2 fire restrictions prohibit Open Flames everywhere, including wilderness, developed camping and picnic grounds and dispersed camping sites. This restriction includes campfires, stove fires, charcoal grills/barbeques, coal and wood burning stoves, and lanterns or other devices using liquid fuel such as white gas or kerosene. The only way to cook food is with a compressed gas (propane or butane) stove you can turn on & off.

Know before you go. Always check with the federal or county agency of the area you'll be visiting to see what restrictions are in place.

This year, law enforcement officers will strengthen enforcement efforts. Violating Stage 2 fire restrictions or going into a closed area is a violation that carries a mandatory appearance in federal court. Violation of these restrictions is punishable as a Class B misdemeanor, which means a fine of up to \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment of up to six months, or both. Fines and punishments are determined by a federal court judge. The order imposing fire restrictions is posted under [Alerts and Notices](#) on the San Juan National Forest website. Fire restrictions in Colorado can be found at <http://www.coemergency.com/p/fire-bans-danger.html>.

For more fire information, please contact the San Juan National Forest at 970-247-4874, or visit <https://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/sanjuan/firerestrictions>. You can also follow [@SanJuanNF](#) on Twitter.

To report a fire on federal lands, please contact the Durango Interagency Fire Dispatch Center at (970) 385-1324.

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