



SHERIFF JOE DISALVO

## Press Release

### For Immediate Release

### **Pitkin County Sheriff Rescinds STAGE 2 Fire Restrictions, Reinstates STAGE 1 Fire Restrictions In Pitkin County Effective July 9, 2021 at 12:01 a.m.**

**Pitkin County, Colorado – July 7, 2021** – Pitkin County Sheriff Joe DiSalvo will rescind Stage 2 fire restrictions and reinstate Stage 1 fire restrictions in Pitkin County effective 12:01 AM Friday, July 9, 2021. The reinstated Stage 1 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.](#)

"We have seen increased moisture and cooler temperatures over the past two weeks and we no longer meet the threshold to be in stage 2 fire restrictions based on the data. The National Weather Service long range forecast calls for more hot and dry weather. We will closely monitor the data and raise restrictions when warranted. We remain in drought conditions and the risk of fire in our community is still very high. We all must abide by these restrictions, without fail." Joe DiSalvo, Pitkin County Sheriff.

"The public must understand that our fire season is nowhere near over. 90% of wildfires are human-caused and we need everyone to continue to use extreme caution with fire." Valerie MacDonald, Pitkin County Emergency Manager.

**All residents and visitors who violate these fire restrictions will face penalties which include fines and possible jail time.**

#### **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, building, or area cleared of all combustible materials.
- 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).

Any person who violates an open fire ban commits a class 2 petty offense and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of:

- Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) for a first offense,
- Seven Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$750) for a second offense,
- One Thousand Dollars (\$1000) for a third and subsequent offense, in addition to any restitution.

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 may be taken against individuals in violation under CRS 30-15-410 and Pitkin County Resolution 029-2021.

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, building, or area cleared of all combustible materials.



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.