

MOHAVE COUNTY NEWS



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County Administration
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OUTDOOR FIRE AND PERMISSIBLE CONSUMER FIREWORKS BAN

KINGMAN. Mohave County is implementing outdoor fire and permissible consumer fireworks use prohibitions on private and public lands in the unincorporated areas of the county, effective Friday, June 20, 2014, due to the very high fire danger caused by ongoing drought, extremely dry vegetation, high winds, and worsening fire conditions.

Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Hildy Angius signed a Proclamation implementing the prohibitions on June 17, 2014. This action was taken upon the recommendation of Emergency Management Coordinator Byron Steward, who on June 16, 2014, issued a Determination of Fire Emergency for all four Fire Zones in the county. This Determination was issued after consultation with fire management experts from the Bureau of Land Management and multiple fire districts.

This action aligns with the Stage 2 fire restrictions on State Lands implemented by the Arizona State Forester on May 30, 2014, and anticipated Stage 2 restrictions to be implemented by the Bureau of Land Management within the county. A number of fire districts in the Kingman area and Mohave Valley have had outdoor fire prohibitions or restrictions in effect for several weeks.

The prohibitions, with the exemptions listed below, apply to all open fires, campfires, and permissible consumer fireworks use in unincorporated areas. An amended version of Mohave County Ordinance 2013-04 that would allow the county to prohibit sales as well as use of permissible consumer fireworks in unincorporated areas is on the Board of Supervisors June 23, 2014, meeting agenda for review and possible immediate action.

The Hualapai Mountain Park will have additional restrictions in place, including no use of charcoal for open fires and no smoking outside of an enclosed vehicle or designated smoking area.

The Mohave County Division of Emergency Management strongly encourages county residents to be constantly alert to the fire danger and take all precautions to avoid accidentally igniting a brush or grass fire in any area of the county. Numerous small fires have been ignited in the county in recent days, mostly along roadways, with some suspected to be caused by careless use of smoking materials. Only rapid response from fire departments and the BLM have prevented these fires from becoming large and potentially threatening to life and property.

Violations of the prohibitions, which were implemented under the authority of Mohave County Ordinance 2013-04, are considered Class 2 misdemeanors subject to fines not to exceed \$750 and/or terms of imprisonment not to exceed 4 months.

The following fires are exempt from the Outdoor Fire Prohibition enacted pursuant to the Proclamation:

1. Fires set or permitted by any public officer, federal, state or local, in the performance of the officer's official duties.
2. Fires set or permitted by the State Entomologist or Mohave County agricultural agents for the purpose of disease and pest prevention.
3. Fires set or permitted by the United States, the State of Arizona, or any federally-recognized Indian tribe, or any of their respective departments, agencies or political subdivisions for the purpose of fire prevention or control, or watershed rehabilitation or control through vegetative manipulation.
4. Fires permitted by the Emergency Management Officer or designee. The conditions of the permit, including permitted dates and the nature of the burning shall be clearly stated on any such permit issued.
5. Fires fueled by propane or charcoal (except for charcoal prohibitions in Hualapai Mountain Park).

Questions can be directed to Mohave County Emergency Management Coordinator Byron Steward, 928-757-0930, byron.steward@mohavecounty.us .