

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

DATE: November 28, 2018

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Mark A. Gaillard, Fire Chief

CC: Barbara Goodrich, Interim City Manager; Shane Dille, Deputy City Manager, Andy Bertelsen, Public Works Director

SUBJECT: BBQ grills at Thorpe Park

Mayor and Council,

We have done an inspection of the Thorpe Park grill facilities and all appear to be within our Codes and Standards. Crews were doing some cleanup of pine needles and it was discovered the area where the grills are located was concrete.

The grills have been in place there for 20 years, and the forest around the park has been treated by our Wildfire Management Team. We inspect the property on a regular basis. Often inspections are secondary to receiving a complaint regarding transient activity and citizen concerns for safety.

Our recommendation is to continue to use our Wildfire Restrictions policies that are in place to provide guidance on this Item. When our area is in the similar weather situation as California was during the Camp Fire, we instill these restrictions to ensure ignition sources are not in an area where they can ignite the forest.

I have attached the city's 2018 Wildfire Restrictions and Closure Plan and a Weekly update for your reference.

- [2018 R&C Plan](#): it's reviewed and updated each spring, so we'll convene city staff for a review this winter and issue a new one sometime in March.
- [Weekly Update](#): this is the one for June 25, and is provided as an example of what we develop and distribute to staff and CMO each week from late April – mid July.



2018 FOREST RESTRICTIONS & CLOSURES PLAN

Issued June 18, 2018

by

Paul Summerfelt

Wildland Fire Management Officer
City of Flagstaff Fire Department



Background: Forest *Restrictions* or *Closures* are implemented when wildfire danger levels reach critical benchmarks. Likewise, They are removed when conditions reverse and the danger levels decline. The USFS is the lead agency in the Flagstaff area in both implementation and removal: other agencies (ex: State, County, and City), typically follow-suit.

Purpose: City actions to be implemented and maintained in the various Stages are detailed in this Plan.

Process: Agencies will participate in weekly calls to coordinate actions as the area moves into, through-out, and out of Restrictions and Closures. In general, these calls will begin when conditions in the Flagstaff Zone reach Preparedness Level 3 (PL-3), and cease when local conditions drop-back to PL-2.

Preparedness Levels are basically dictated by:

1. Condition of the fuels.
2. Burning characteristics.
3. Fire activity, prescribed and wildland.
4. Resource availability.
5. Air quality considerations.

Review & Revision: A Review will occur at least annually, but Revisions may occur at any time the need is identified. At no time does this Plan in its current form at the time restrict additional actions by the City should they be deemed necessary.

USFS Restriction/Closure Stage and Action Summary: (May not be implemented in sequential order or with the conditions listed – this chart provided for general guidance information only)

Stage	Fire Danger	Preparedness Level	Actions
0	Low or Moderate	I or II	<u>Planning and Monitoring</u>
1	≥ High	III or higher	<u>Smoking and Campfire Restrictions</u> - Industrial Plan B <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open fire restricted to designated areas/sites • Some conditions in designated areas/sites may be imposed (ex: written permit or posting of fire guard required)
2	≥ Very High	IV or higher	<u>Power Saw Restrictions & “Hoot Owl”</u> - Industrial Plan C <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibiting all motorized vehicle travel off of designated roadways, any welding activities, use of explosives, and all campfires. • Chainsaw/heavy equipment use restricted to certain areas or not allowed entirely during set times, generally from 0900 - 2000 hrs (<i>hoot-owl</i>)
3	≥ Very High	IV or higher	<u>Area Closure(s)</u> - Industrial Plan D <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Specific area(s)</u> of the Forest are closed to public entry due to fire risk and potentially severe damage from a fire in that area • In closed areas, <u>all</u> woods activities are suspended/prohibited
4	Extreme	V	<u>Forest Closure</u> - Industrial Plan D <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Entire</u> Forest closed to public entry

Detailed U.S. Forest Service Restrictions and Closures Protocols (effective Apr 2012) can be found in Appendix 1

NOTE: Coconino County has adopted, effective 2015, the *Wildfire Defense Ordinance* which basically follows this same format, but speaks in-terms of three levels of restrictions, with Stage 3 and 4 combined into a single item/action.

City Actions: Flagstaff Fire Dept (FFD) is the designated City Dept to coordinate **Restrictions and Closures** with partner wildfire agencies. Some actions undertaken by our partners may be restricted to areas/sites distant from the city (ex: only in Oak Creek Canyon), thus not requiring any direct action by the City: others may be directly adjacent to the City and require immediate action. In the event actions taken by one agency (Jurisdiction Having Authority - JHA) are within the City corporate boundaries (ex: US Forest Service closing federal lands within the City), then the City will honor/support such action(s) on those lands by prohibiting entry/use on those lands

Based upon these discussions, FFD will notify other City Depts to implement certain actions described below. As conditions lessen, FFD will notify these same Depts as to what can be removed and the timing as to when to do so. Any required response will be fine-tuned based upon the exact nature of the situation, but they are generally summarized as follows:

FFD:	STAGE				
	0	1	2	3	4
As needed, update Staff on status of City's <i>Restrictions and Closure Plan</i>	X	X	X	X	X
Notify partners about current status of City's <i>Restrictions and Closures Plan</i>	X				
Participate in weekly Agency Coordination Conference Calls		X	X	X	X
Prepare and distribute <i>Wildfire Preparedness Update</i> to key City Staff, Fire Dept. personnel, and others as appropriate		X	X	X	X
Work with Housing Dept to coordinate any homeless shelter <i>Temporary Use Permit</i> needs	X	X	X	X	X
Inspect homeless shelter(s) – Fire Code & welfare				X	X
Provide City PIO with appropriate information to release to the public/media		X	X	X	X
Discuss/coordinate/make decision on the annual 4 th of July Fireworks show		X	X	X	X
<i>NOTE: Close Proximity Fireworks, such as are used during 4th of July, are regulated via NFPA standards and are permitted for use even during very high or higher fire danger</i>					
Notify all Firework vendors regarding prohibition of consumer grade fireworks within the City . . .		X	X	X	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sale: Dec 9 – Jan 4 AND May 19 – July7 • Use: Dec 23 – Jan 4 AND June 23 – July 7 					

IF Stage 1 or greater Restrictions are declared by State/Federal and are in effect

Disable/Remove all “on Spot” chains from engines		X			
Initiate <i>Severity Patrol</i> planning	X				
Prepare & Maintain <i>Severity Patrol</i> Community Contact List		X			
Prepare & Distribute to <i>Severity Patrol</i> -Talking points, Literature, Signs, Stapler etc		X			
Staff <i>Severity Patrol(s)</i> – Situational Dependent. Factors to consider include, but not limited to Fire Danger rating, Critical Fire Wx (to include Red Flag Day), resource shortages, fire occurrence, social/political issues, increased visitors and/or special events, etc		X	X	X	X
<i>Severity Patrols</i> visit parks checking for appropriate signage and grill status		X	X	X	X
Initiate discussions with City/County staff regarding EOC activation				X	X
Cease issuance of all Open Burn Permits (<i>Exception may be use of Air Curtain Destructor or other FFD approved units</i>)		X			
Suspend any Open Burn Permits, including for any Air Curtain Destructor or other FFD previously approved units			X		
Notify private campgrounds to cover or remove fire-grills		X			
Inspect private campgrounds to ensure all fire-grills are covered or removed			X	X	X
Notify community that all fire-pits or other open flame (ex: Chimineas) devices - even those with a spark arrestor - are banned; use of charcoal grills, and other devices which have an ON-OFF switch are permitted. (<i>Except NO charcoal or wood fueled grills at Thorpe, McPhearson, McMillan & Buffalo parks</i>)		X			
Notify community that:					
• only grills or other devices <u>with an ON-OFF switch</u> are permitted throughout the City; all other open-fire/flame devices (ex: charcoal) are banned, except ;			X	X	X
• use of portable propane fire-ring pits in Parks and Open Space is prohibited			X	X	X
Notify community that all grills or other devices - including those with an ON-OFF switch – are prohibited in all City Parks and private campgrounds, <i>but are still permitted at private residences</i> . Propane cooking devices which have an ON-OFF switch may be permitted for use at <u>permitted special events</u> in approved areas at the discretion of the Fire Marshal’s office- (NO charcoal or wood fueled grills)				X	X
• All other open flame devices, open fire ring pits, and show displays are banned					
Remind community that smoking is banned on all open space and in all city parks per city ordinance per Flagstaff City Code Section 5-02-001-0001 & IFC 307.1.1		X	X	X	X

(Ord. 2005-19, Amended, 08/16/2005; Ord. 2017-18, Amended, 06/06/2017)

Notify community of closures in effect on US Forest Service/State Lands within the community, and prohibit entry into all such closed areas within the City.				X	X
Prohibit outdoor welding unless specially authorized			X	X	X
Special Events Permits reviews for compliance with above	X	X	X	X	X
Fireworks:					
• Prohibit use and the sale of consumer grade fireworks with patrol and notification of vendors	X	X	X	X	X
• Engage in public outreach to community to discourage use of novelty grade fireworks				X	X
• Prohibit pyrotechnic display events					X
Firewood collection:					
• Notify parties of fire danger and steps required to reduce ignition potential			X	X	
• Prohibit pickup on City Open Space and/or Park areas					X
City Crew 1 operations:					
• Begin planning for 7-day/week coverage				X	
• Implement 7-day/week coverage and redirect daily operations to Severity issues/actions and/or direct suppression actions					X
After Fire Danger moderates:					
a) Conduct Action Review (AAR)		X			
b) If necessary, revise City's <i>Restrictions and Closure Plan</i>		X			

City Admin:

As needed, develop, post, or otherwise distribute information - City website, social media, news media, etc		X	X	X	X
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Police:

Initiate homeless-camping patrol efforts		X			
Expand homeless-camping patrol efforts			X	X	X
Activate <i>Woods Watch</i> groups			X	X	X
Provide security at temporary homeless shelter(s)				X	X
Write citations as needed:					
• No open burning anytime within City limits: <i>City Code 5, Fire Regulation: Section 5-02-001-0001</i>	X	X	X	X	X

City Ordinance 2010-21

IFC 307.1.1 Prohibited open burning

- Entry into closed areas (Ex. State/federal lands closed within City) X X

ARS Sec 13-2913

Coordinate with County, State, and U.S. Forest Service:

County and State - *AZ Revised Statute 13-2913* X X X X

U.S. Forest Service - *36 Code of Federal Regulations 261.52A* X X X X

Housing:

Notify potential homeless shelters and involved agencies of status/trend X

Prepare for potential homeless housing needs X X

Open-and-coordinate homeless housing shelter(s) X X

Parks:

Post and maintain “*No Smoking & No Charcoal or Wood BBQ*” signs at Thorpe Park, McPhearson Park, Buffalo Park, and McMillan Mesa Park X X

Remove or cover grills at Thorpe Park, McPherson Park and McMillan Mesa Park X X X X

Remove or cover grills at all remaining Parks X X X X

Post and maintain “*No Smoking & No Charcoal or Wood BBQ*” signs at all remaining City Parks X

Post and maintain “*No Smoking*” signs on all FUTS trails and Disc Golf Courses X X X X

Post and maintain “*No Smoking & No BBQ’s of any kind*” signs at all remaining City Parks X X

Post/close following FUTS trails **where they lead into or are within** a US Forest Service/State Land closure area – *Mars Hill, Tunnel Springs, Little America, Arizona Trail, Sinclair Canyon, Buffalo Park, and Switzer Wash* X X

Open Space:

Ensure posting and maintenance of “No Smoking” signs at primary entrance points to Picture Canyon, Observatory Mesa, McMillan Mesa, and Switzer Canyon X X X X

Post/close access points (roads and FUTS/Other trails) on Observatory Mesa, Picture Canyon, McMillan Mesa, and Switzer Canyon **where they lead into a US Forest Service/State Land closure area** X

Post/close access points (roads and FUTS/Other trails) accessing/entering into Observatory Mesa, Picture Canyon, McMillan Mesa, and Switzer Canyon	X
Prohibit public entry/use of Observatory Mesa and Picture Canyon City Open Space lands, unless part of a group event sanctioned/supervised by Open Space staff members and/or other City staff. This does not preclude access for Law Enforcement, Fire, or other staff in the conduct of official duties..	X

Contracts / Community Development:

Notify city contractors of Restrictions/Closures and resulting impacts to either personnel (ex: smoking) or operations (ex: hours of operation (hoot owl), types of activities and mitigation measures required (ex: Fire Watch))	X	X	X
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NOTE: Depts should be prepared to respond quickly. All actions will be communicated to Mayor and Council, City Leadership Team, and Dept Heads by FFD Firewise Specialist working with the FFD FMO.

Forest Closures (Stage 3 or 4) Shelter Information

**Lead Agency for Information Dissemination Additional Men’s Shelter: Women and Children’s Shelter:
and Primary Women and Men’s Shelter:** Sunshine Rescue Mission Hope Cottage
 Flagstaff Shelter Services (FSS) 124 S. San Francisco Street 2211 Johnson Ave.
 4185 E Huntington Dr. Flagstaff, AZ 86001 Flagstaff, AZ 86004
 Flagstaff, AZ 86004 928-774-3512 928-774-3512
 928-225-2533 ext. 320

Camping and Resource Questions: For questions regarding allowable areas to camp, please contact the Coconino National Forest Services, Fire Restriction Hotline at 928-226-4607. If a citizen sees an individual or family in a closed City area, direct

the citizen to call the non-emergency dispatch number (928) 779-3646. If any individual or family experiencing homeless is seeking resources during Stage 3 or 4, direct them to Flagstaff Shelter Services – Front Door 928-225-2533 ext. 301.

Individuals, Men and Women: Individuals will access emergency shelter through FSS. Additional shelter will be available through FSS' overflow shelter program if funding is available.

Families with Children: If funding is available, families and children will receive motel vouchers. If needed Coconino County Community Services would request emergency discretionary funds through the Arizona Department of Economic Security/Division of Aging and Adults Services (ADES/DAAS). Vouchers may be distributed by Coconino County Community Services. .

Process:

1. In the event of a pending forest closure, FFD will notify the Housing and Grants Administrator at 213-2752. The Housing and Grants Administrator will notify the lead agency, FSS, and the Forest Closure Planning Team.
2. Funding for temporary shelter operations will be provided to FSS from Coconino County Community Services through a DES grant if the funding is available. Additional funding may also be available from United Way of Northern Arizona (UWNA). FSS will be required to meet reporting guidelines for the use of these funds.
3. FSS responsible to ensure adequate shelter staff during a closure. FSS requires a 5-7 day notice to become fully operational.
4. FSS staff/PATH outreach/community members will provide the homeless with community resource and referral information.

Meals - Sack lunches and warm dinners will be provided by the Flagstaff Family Food Center and delivered to FSS daily.

Transportation - Primary 24 hour transportation will be provided by the PATH Outreach Team (Rick Brust 928-446-0881 Corrin Johns 928-606-1039 Miya Winston 928-640-6930); If additional transportation is necessary FSS will utilize paratransit vehicles to support transportation needs.

Supplies - Cots, blankets and hygiene kits will be provided (as needed) to shelter organizations listed above by the American Red Cross.

Vehicles - People with vehicles are encouraged to call the Flagstaff Police Department (928-779-3646) to find out where they are allowed to park overnight. A determination on Bus Day Passes (Contact Erika Mazza, Deputy General Manager, NAIPTA at (928) 679-8932) will be made at the time that Stage 3 or 4 is imminent.

APPENDIX 1 - U.S. Forest Service - Fire Restrictions and Closures Protocols

The Coconino National Forest uses the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) to assist in determining Preparedness Levels and when Campfire and Smoking restrictions may be implemented. Using this tool helps Fire Managers to identify critical times when fires can become difficult to control.

Campfire and Smoking restriction discussions between adjacent National Forests, National Parks, State Agencies and the National Weather Service generally begins in mid-April depending on forest conditions and weather forecasts. A review of operating plans, weather trends and forest conditions defines when the need for fire restrictions will be applied. These key questions and weather parameters are addressed during these discussions and are defined in the following narrative.

1. What is the predicted fire potential for the next several weeks?
 - Is the Southwest Area 7 Day Significant Potential outlook showing “Very Dry” or more than one “High Risk” day per week?
 - Is the Southwest Area Monthly Outlook showing “Above Normal” Significant Fire Potential over or near the units under consideration?
2. Is there an increase in number of fire starts? (Human vs. Natural)
3. What is the daily fire occurrence situation?
 - Are there multiple starts?
 - Are fire occurrences and associated control problems increasing or decreasing?
4. Are adequate fire resources available by Agency or Zone?
5. Are severity resources or funds requested/approved for local or zone agencies?
6. Is there an increase/decrease in recreational visitor days, e.g., holidays and special events expected?
7. Are social, political, or economics impacts expected?
8. Are there preparations for the next phase, whether that would be a higher level of restrictions, closures, or rescissions of an order?
9. Have you contacted the following individuals concerning area fire restrictions?
 - Fire Prevention Officers
 - Public Affairs/Public Information Officers
 - Law Enforcement/Special Agents
 - Agency Administrators|
 - Zone Partners

Additional criteria that will be do define guidelines to implement campfire restrictions and closures include:

Restrictions and Closures

The Forest Supervisor retains the authority to issue campfire/smoking and chainsaw restrictions and will recommend issuance of area closures to the Regional Forester when conditions warrant. Examples of fire restriction and closure orders are included in the Restriction and Closure Toolbox available for use by the Forest. Districts should make recommendations or requests for restrictions and closures at least five working days prior to the recommended execution date.

Restrictions and closures will be coordinated with all adjacent Forests (Kaibab, Tonto, Prescott, and Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests). Coordination will also occur with State, County, and local cooperators. Conference calls between all of these agencies will occur when conditions warrant.

Restriction and Closure Criteria

The Forest uses restrictions and closures as an aid in wildland fire prevention. Implementation normally occurs in four stages based upon the Fire Preparedness Level, current fire occurrence, and projected fire season duration and severity.

The usual order will be:

- A.** Smoking and Campfire Restrictions
- B.** Power Saw Restrictions and Industrial Fire Plan "C" (Hoot Owl)
- C.** Area Closures
- D.** Forest Closure

A. Smoking and Campfire Restrictions: Smoking and Campfire Restrictions limit smoking and building of open fires to designated areas. Criteria for implementing Smoking and Campfire Restrictions are:

1. The Coconino NF is in Fire Preparedness Level III or higher.
2. The following weather and fuel conditions exist and are expected to continue: (based on readings from the weather station at Flagstaff Airport, some of which can be found online at <http://go.usa.gov/mzx>)
 - Temperature >70 by 1300 hours weather observation
 - Relative humidity <30% by 1300 hours weather observation
 - Fine fuel moisture < 5% by 1300 hours weather observation
 - 10 hour fuel moisture <8% by 1300 hours weather observation
 - 1000 hour fuel moisture <10% by 1300 hours weather observation

3. The following field conditions exist and are expected to continue:
 - Fires that start are beginning to spot.
 - There are increasing numbers of people using the Forest.
 - The Forest may experience numerous fire starts on a given day.
 - There is highly flammable slash adjacent to high use areas.
4. The following coordination will be completed:
 - The District Ranger(s) and the Forest Fire Staff will consult when either feels the criterion for implementing Smoking and Campfire Restrictions has been reached on a Ranger District.
 - If the District Ranger(s) and Forest Fire Staff agree that the restrictions should be implemented, the Forest Fire Staff will call and coordinate the application of the restrictions on the Forest with other District Rangers and adjacent Forests.
 - The Forest Fire Staff will notify the Forest Supervisor of the need for implementation of the restrictions.
 - The Forest Fire Staff will coordinate the implementation of restrictions with adjacent Forests and cooperators.

When all coordination has been completed, the Forest Supervisor will sign an order implementing the restrictions on the Forest. The Public Affairs Office will issue a news release informing the public and the Dispatch Center will notify the Districts.

B. Power Saw Restrictions and Industrial Fire Plan C (Hoot Owl): The Power saw Order limits the use of power saws during critical fire danger days. The Hoot Owl shift is a very effective prevention tool because it allows industrial woods operations during early morning hours when temperatures are down and relative humidity is higher. Hoot Owl is the implementation of Industrial fire Plan "C" and can be declared by the Forest Supervisor in Preparedness Level IV and above. Some additional criteria for implementation of power saw restriction and Hoot Owl shifts are:

1. The Coconino NF is in Preparedness Level IV or higher.
2. The following weather and fuel conditions exist and are expected to continue:
 - a. Temperature >75 degrees by 1300 hours weather observation
 - b. Relative humidity <25% by 1300 hours weather observation
 - c. Fine fuel moisture <4% by 1300 hours weather observation
 - d. 10 hour fuel moisture <7% by 1300 hours weather observation
 - e. 1000 hour fuel moisture <9% by 1300 hours weather observation
3. The following coordination will be completed:
 - The District Ranger(s) and Forest Fire Staff will consult when either feels the criteria for implementing the power saw restrictions and Hoot Owl shift have been reached on the Ranger District.

- If the District Ranger(s) and Forest Fire Staff agree that power saw restrictions and Hoot Owl shift should be implemented, the Forest Fire Staff will call and coordinate with the other District Ranger and adjacent Forests.
 - When all coordination has been completed, the Forest Supervisor will sign an order implementing the power saw restrictions. The Public Affairs Officer will issue a media release and the Dispatch Center will notify the Districts.
4. Hoot Owl shift (Plan "C" Industrial Fire Plan) will be implemented for all industrial operations including commercial fuel wood sales except timber sale contracts 2400-3 and 2400-6. These two sale contracts have specific contract clauses that deal with Industrial Fire Plan based on Energy Release Component.

Special Permits or Waivers for Restrictions, and Hoot Owl Shift: District Rangers are delegated authority to grant special permits or waivers for smoking and campfire restrictions, power saw restrictions, and hoot owl shifts in writing on a case by case basis. This authority may not be re-delegated.

C. & D. Area or Forest Closures: There are two types of closures for the Forest:

1. Area Closure: A specific area of the Forest is closed to public entry due to the risk of a wildfire starting with the potential of causing

severe damage, and

2. Forest Closure.

This is rare and used only when severe fire conditions exist, there are multiple large fires on the Forest or in the Region, and nearly all suppression forces available to the Region are committed to going fires. Closures are an important fire prevention tool. They will be implemented whenever needed to help prevent large fires and their accompanying damage and high suppression costs. Some additional criteria for implementing Area Closures are:

1. The Coconino NF is in Fire Preparedness Level IV or higher.
2. The following weather and fuel conditions exist and are expected to continue:
 - Temperature >75 degrees by 1300 hour weather observations
 - Relative humidity <10% by 1300 hour weather observations
 - Fine fuel moisture <3% by 1300 hour weather observations
 - 10 hour fuel moisture <6% by 1300 hour weather observations
 - 1000 hour fuel moisture <8% by 1300 hour weather observations
3. The following coordination will be completed:
 - The District Ranger(s) and the Fire Staff will consult when either feels the criteria for implementing an Area Closure have been reached within a specified area.
 - If the District Ranger(s) and the Forest Fire Staff agree that an Area Closure should be implemented, the Forest Fire Staff coordinates the application with all Rangers involved, adjacent Forests, and cooperators.
 - The Forest Fire Staff notifies the Forest Supervisor of the need for implementation of the Area Closure.

4. When all coordination has been completed, the Forest Administrative Officer will send the Area Closure Notice to the Regional Forester for approval prior to signing by the Forest Supervisors. The criteria for implementing a Forest Closure include:

- The Coconino National Forest is in Preparedness Level V.
- Fuel and weather conditions are the same as for an Area Closure.
- Nearly all fire suppression forces available to the Region are committed to going fires.
- Coordination and implementation actions are the same for Area Closures with the addition of implementation of "Plan D" in the Industrial Fire Plan level.
- Approval for a Forest Closure is the same as for an Area Closure and rests at the Regional Forester level.

Special Permits or Waivers for Area/Forest Closures: District Rangers are delegated authority to grant special permits or waivers for closures in writing on an individual case basis. Special requirements will normally be a part of any permit or waiver. The District Ranger must be sure that granting an entry permit or waiver does not cause an excessive risk of wildfire and it is in the best interest of the Forest to grant such a waiver or permit. The District Ranger may not re-delegate this authority.

Rescission of Restriction and Closure Orders: The same level of coordination between Districts, adjacent Forests, and the Forest Fire Staff should occur when deciding to rescind any signed orders. A general guideline is that 2/3 of the Area Closure/Forest Closure must receive 1/10th" of rain prior to rescinding a closure and 1/2" of rain prior to rescinding Smoking and Campfire Restrictions. The rescission order is signed by the Forest Supervisor. The Public Affairs office will notify the media and the Dispatch Center will notify the Districts.

APPENDIX 2 – City’s Interagency Coordination and Internal Notification Process

- The interagency group typically initiates the weekly coordination calls toward the end of April – beginning of May, and continues until mid-July.
- Exact timing dependent upon the situation (it does vary a bit year-to-year), and includes weather, fuels, ignitions, etc.
- The USFS is the “host”, and the chair is rotated on an annual basis between the Kaibab and the Coconino NF.
- Agencies involved in the calls include the national Weather Service, all NAZ National Forests (Prescott, Kaibab, Coconino, Tonto, and Apache-Sitgreaves), Grand Canyon NP (also represents the Flag Area Monuments), the Navajo, Hopi, and Hualapai Nations (typically through the Bureau of Indian Affairs Fire Management Offices on each Reservation), the Bureau of Land Management (Kingman office), AZ State Forestry, Coconino County, and the City of Flagstaff (FFD).
- Calls are “scripted”: following a roll-call and a Weather Service overview of current and upcoming conditions, each agency goes through a set-list of info. In general, that list includes:
 - ❖ # of fires in past week, to include type (human caused [if so – cause], lightning, or other, and size);

- ❖ Fire behavior seen/experienced on these fires – to include resistance to control exhibited by each;
 - ❖ Each agency’s resource availability;
 - ❖ Forest visitor #'s – trend, known “surge” events in coming week, etc;
 - ❖ Current and forecast local unit fire indices – fuel moisture (live and dead), fire danger rating, etc;
 - ❖ Social or political issues or concerns;
 - ❖ Regional and national fire occurrence/status; and
 - ❖ Recommendation on increasing or decreasing current fire restriction level (or closure).
- Once all have spoken, the current chair summarizes the info and puts forth a recommendation, which goes into effect unless one entity can make a compelling case why it should go another route: the recommendation also includes a date and time when it would become effective. The goal is to allow a minimum of 3 days before a move is to occur (up or down) so that signage, messaging, etc can be coordinated and disseminated.
 - Each entity is free to do what they choose: the goal is to try and act in unison, or as close as possible to eliminate confusion or uncertainty on the part of the public.
 - At times, some units (ex: Prescott or Tonto) may move into restrictions sooner, or to a higher level than others, due to their unique conditions (lower elevation, different fuels, warmer temps, etc). But when that occurs, those that do so are typically separate (geographically) from the others. For example, the North Rim of Grand Canyon and the North Kaibab District of the Kaibab NF typically lag behind the south side of the Grand Canyon and the south Kaibab NF: at over 1,000 feet higher, the north side has cooler temps, wetter conditions, etc.
 - At the conclusion of the call, and usually within one hour, we (FFD) develops and sends out the weekly *Wildfire Preparedness Update* to folks within the City. We may also notify the media depending upon the actions that are to follow.
 - Bottom line - It’s as much an art as a science.



928-213-
2500

FLAGSTAFF FIRE DEPARTMENT
&
SUMMIT FIRE & MEDICAL DISTRICT



928-526-
9537

WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS UPDATE
6/25/18

CURRENT SITUATION:

Fire Danger: **EXTREME** **Preparedness Level:** Region - 3 National - 2
Regional Description – Resources within some local dispatch areas are short, requiring frequent mobilization of additional SW and national resources. Large fires occurring frequently and potential for IMT mobilization is regularly present. Fire behavior is escalating and of concern to multiple agencies and fire managers.
National Description - Several Geographic Areas are experiencing high to extreme fire danger. Wildland fire activity is increasing and large fires are occurring in one or more Geographic Areas. Minimal mobilization of resources from other Geographic Areas is occurring. There is moderate commitment of national resources with the potential to mobilize additional resources from other Geographic Areas.

RESTRICTIONS and CLOSURES IN-PLACE:

Coconino National Forest – Forest-wide Stage 2 restrictions in effect, with Stage 3 (Area Closures) in place in specific areas (same as implemented previous weeks).

State –All State Lands south of Grand Canyon are closed in Northern Arizona.

City –Stage 3 remains in effect.

County –Stage 3 restrictions in effect across county, to include Summit Fire & Medical District

OVERALL CONDITIONS:

1. **Resource availability** – Adequate at this time: out-of-region severity resources in-place, plus severity staffing occurring as critical fire conditions require.
2. **Local area** –Hot, dry, and windy conditions will persist through late week, with red flag conditions potentially developing on Thurs-Fri. Moisture is forecasted for end of week. All agencies experienced only few human caused fires with no control issues.
3. **Regional area** – Northern and central AZ & NM continues to show elevated fire risk with resulting potential for significant fire growth. Area closures across northern AZ forests remain in effect. Discussion of full forest/tribal lands closures are put on hold due to light fire activity.

FORECAST:

Fire Danger Trend: Locally, fire danger remains extreme with continuation of hot, dry, and windy conditions this week. Projected forecast anticipating a slight chance of moisture in the local area by the weekend with some potential lightening and regional outlook continues to indicate above normal potential for significant fire growth.

Preparedness Level Projection: Region level preparedness remains at 3.

Restrictions/Closures Planned: Full Forest Closures are delayed, though weekly discussions continue to occur. City & County Stage 3 restrictions remain in effect. No action is required at this time.

**** Sign Up for Emergency Notifications at www.Coconino.az.gov/ready ****