



Forest Service News Release

Public Affairs Officer: Susan Blake
(480) 647-8082
susan.blake@usda.gov
www.fs.usda.gov/tonto

Tonto National Forest lifts Stage 1 Fire Restrictions

PHOENIX, July 20, 2021 — The Tonto National Forest in coordination with federal, state, and local partners will terminate the current Stage 1 Fire Restrictions effective July 21, 2021 at 8 a.m. due to reduced fire danger.

The restrictions were implemented to reduce the risk of human-caused wildfires during periods of high fire danger and elevated fire weather conditions.

“The Tonto and Arizonans needed a break in the weather, and we got it with recent monsoonal activity,” said Deputy Forest Supervisor Tom Torres. “We thank everyone for cooperating with these restrictions across the forest, but temperatures are still high enough to spark a wildfire if people are not careful when building a campfire.”

Campfire tips:

- Keep your fire small;
- Always keep water and a shovel nearby and know how to use them to put out your campfire;
- Be sure an adult is always watching the fire;
- Keep an eye on the weather! Sudden wind gusts can blow sparks into vegetation outside your cleared area, causing unexpected fires;
- Make sure your campfire is dead out!

Campfires and charcoal BBQs must be completely extinguished after use. Abandoned campfires continue to be a major cause of wildfires. Always keep enough water on hand and a tool to drown and stir fires. If it is too hot to touch, it is too hot to leave. More campfire safety and prevention tips can be found at Smokeybear.com.

Please take the time to inspect vehicles and trailers for proper maintenance especially in relation to tire condition, brakes and wheel bearings. The Arizona climate is tough on tires and wheel bearings; tire blowouts or worn bearings can be very dangerous but can also cause wildfires. Take time to adjust trailer chains to avoid them dragging and sparking fires. Many tire shops and mechanics are available in the area to provide professional assistance in inspecting vehicles and often inspection is free.

Violators of regulations that prohibit abandoning a campfire are subject to a fine and/or imprisonment. If an abandoned campfire causes a wildfire, violators can also be held responsible for fire suppression costs.

--more--

For more information, visit the Tonto National Forest alerts and notices [webpage](#) or call the following district ranger stations for information: Cave Creek Ranger District (480) 595-3300; Globe Ranger District (928) 402-6200; Mesa Ranger District (480) 610-3300; Payson Ranger District (928) 474-7900; and Tonto Basin Ranger District (602) 225-5395.

###

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.