

# NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service

Eldorado National Forest

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## **Fire Restrictions In Effect Within The Eldorado National Forest**

**Placerville CA** ...Special fire restrictions have been implemented in the Eldorado National Forest beginning July 16. Eldorado National Forest Supervisor John Berry signed a forest order that restricts campfires and charcoal barbeques to designated developed campgrounds and prohibits other fire related activities until the end of fire season. The fire restrictions affect the entire Eldorado National Forest including wilderness areas.

“Conditions are extremely dry on the forest increasing the risk of wildfires. We have already had several human caused fires,” said Berry. “We are counting on everyone to do their part to prevent additional fires.”

The restrictions also prohibit: operating internal combustion engines off of forest development roads and trails, the use of fireworks; most smoking activities; welding; and using explosives.

The following acts are prohibited within the Eldorado National Forest beginning on July 16 until the end of fire season:

1. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, or stove fire, except within the stoves and fire rings provided in the designated recreation sites shown on Exhibit A. A complete list of these recreation sites can be obtained on the Eldorado National Forest web site at [www.fs.fed.us/r5/eldorado/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/eldorado/).
2. Possessing, discharging or using any kind of firework or other pyrotechnic device.

3. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, or within the recreation sites shown on Exhibit A, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material.
4. Operating an internal combustion engine off forest development roads and trails, except for boats or dredges on a water surface. Persons with a valid Forest Product Removal Permits (firewood permit) from the Eldorado National Forest may cut firewood provided that the cutting of the firewood is done in compliance with the terms of the permit.
5. Welding, or operating acetylene or other torch with an open flame.
6. Using an explosive.

The following persons are exempt from this order:

1. Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.
2. Persons with a permit from the Forest Service specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission. Persons with a valid Wilderness Permit or valid California Campfire Permit are NOT exempt from the prohibitions listed above. Persons with a valid California campfire permit, or a valid Wilderness Permit, may use a portable stove, barbeque, or lantern that uses gas, jellied petroleum, or pressurized liquid fuel.

Forest Service fire prevention personnel will patrol the Forest daily looking for unsafe situations. The prohibitions carry penalties that can include fines and imprisonment. Violation of the prohibitions is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than six months, or both.