

Attachment 9 Alaska Fire Restriction Levels

Alaska Fire Restriction Levels

The purpose of this document is to provide a uniform statewide system to aid fire staff in proposing and communicating local, state, and federal fire restrictions to the public in Alaska. This interagency document is a reference guide to clarify the definitions of fire use for the public relative to general restriction levels.

Agency contacts must be identified annually to coordinate fire restrictions for their respective agency land ownership, to obtain approval within their agency, and coordinate public outreach. The contact list will be disseminated at the Spring Operations meeting each March. Public outreach and messaging must clarify, as needed, that open burning activities may require compliance with regulations from multiple agencies within one geographic area.

Table 19: Agency Fire Restrictions Points of Contact

Agency	Agency Contact	Phone	Email
Alaska Department of Natural Resources	Norm McDonald	(907) 761-6302	norman.mcdonald@alaska.gov
Bureau of Indian Affairs	Tom St. Clair	(907) 458-0221	thomas.stclair@bia.gov
Bureau of Land Management	Tasha Shields	(907) 356-5516	tshields@blm.gov
Bureau of Land Management (Alternate 1)	Jared Hammatt	(907) 267-1223	jhammatt@blm.gov
Bureau of Land Management (Alternate 2)	Willie Branson	(907) 474-2226	wbranson@blm.gov
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	Brad Reed	(907) 786-3985	brad_reed@fws.gov
National Park Service	Kelly Kane	(907) 644-3409/ (907) 223-3190	Kelly_Kane@nps.gov
U.S. Forest Service	Erick Stahlin	(907) 240-1208	erick.stahlin@usda.gov

Designated Area of Restrictions

Fire restrictions are implemented based on fire indices and corresponding fire danger levels with consideration for preparedness levels, resource availability, land use status, and socio-political concerns. They may be implemented statewide or directed at specific areas. Cooperating agencies will coordinate to identify the boundaries of temporal fire restriction levels prior to disseminating specific restrictions to the public. Whenever possible, fire restriction boundaries should be commonly known geographic features or administrative boundaries that are easily communicated to the public through multiple media channels including verbal and visual methods.

Legal Authorities

Individual agencies remain responsible for implementing restrictions within their jurisdiction (see **Table 18: Jurisdictional Agencies based on Ownership/Land Status**) according to their own policies and procedures. Generally, the authority to implement or rescind fire restrictions resides with an Agency Administrator or other public official, and fire staff are responsible for coordinating the level of restriction needed and outreach to the public. Reference [Alaska Fire Restrictions](#) for the statewide compilation by jurisdiction.

Restriction Levels

The restriction levels are relative categories used for the application of fire restrictions when multiple agencies are experiencing very high to extreme fire danger and/or limited resource availability across a large geographic area. These levels are not defined by statute or regulation. Designation of the level is made by agreement between agency authorities and line officers recommending protections.

Restriction Level Descriptions

Table 20 outlines what activities are prohibited and allowed during the levels of restrictions. All activities listed here are subject to private, local, state, federal, and native trust burning requirements and limitations.

Table 20: Alaska Fire Restriction Level Descriptions

Activity	No Restrictions	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Notes/Reference
Burning of brush/debris piles, use of burn barrels, burning of lawns and other types of open burning which may be regulated under a state or local burn permitting system.	Allowed ¹	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	¹ Subject to landowner, Alaska DNR, Alaska DEC, and local permitting requirements and limitations. This activity is generally prohibited on federally administered lands but subject to local jurisdiction approval.
Campfires in unimproved or dispersed camp sites, such as gravel bars, beaches, and remote/backcountry locations.	Allowed	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	
Campfires in designated campgrounds and fire rings.	Allowed	Allowed ²	Prohibited	Prohibited	² In Level 1, campfires must be 3 feet or less in diameter with flame lengths no more than 2 feet high.
Cooking and warming devices that operate using charcoal briquettes, wood pellets, or any other exposed fuel source that <u>cannot be immediately shut off</u> via a commercially manufactured and installed off/on switch or fuel flow shut off valve.	Allowed	Allowed	Prohibited	Prohibited	
Commercially manufactured cooking and warming devices that can be immediately shut off with an installed off/on switch or fuel flow shut off valve.	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Prohibited	
Any other activity that may involve the use or creation of an open flame for burning including DEC approved waste disposal sites, gas and oil flares, outdoor shooting ranges, live fire training undertaken by a registered fire department, outdoor licensed food vendors, etc.	Jurisdictional Discretion	Jurisdictional Discretion	Jurisdictional Discretion	Jurisdictional Discretion	Shall be at the discretion of the government agency having jurisdictional oversight.
The sale and personal and/or commercial use of fireworks	Per local ordinance or State Fire Marshal's office	Per local ordinance or State Fire Marshal's office	Per local ordinance or State Fire Marshal's office	Per local ordinance or State Fire Marshal's office	Subject to borough or municipality ordinance and landowner restrictions. If none apply, under all Levels it shall be at the discretion of the State Fire Marshal's office in areas where the Department of Natural Resources has declared the wildfire danger to be high, very high, or extreme, or there are depleted firefighting resources (Reference 13AAC 50.025 and International Fire Code 5608.11.14).