



Pueblo County Sheriff's Office

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News Release

For Immediate Release
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Sheriff Taylor Places Pueblo County on Stage 1 Fire Restrictions

Pueblo, CO: Pueblo County Sheriff Kirk M. Taylor, in consultation with county fire chiefs, is implementing Stage 1 fire restrictions, effective at 4 p.m. today for Pueblo County due to the ongoing dry conditions and high fire danger that persists in the region.

Sheriff Taylor, who is the fire warden for the county, said the decision to impose fire restrictions is not taken lightly but the current conditions and an extended weather forecast predicting little to no precipitation increases the fire danger.

“With the windy, dry weather and low moisture levels, that’s a strong indication of the fire danger that exists in the area,” Taylor said. “Although vegetation is starting to turn green with the lack of moisture, it’s still very dry out there.”

Sheriff Taylor has been closely monitoring conditions and reviewing fire activity in the region which contributed to the decision to issue the fire restrictions. Among the fire restriction evaluation guidelines taken into consideration were the fire danger rating is at a very high or extreme level, the area is receiving a high occurrence of human-caused fires or the human caused risk is predicted to increase, the fire weather conditions and risk which are predicated to continue due to weather forecast not showing any significant moisture in the near future.

Stage 1 restrictions prohibit:

- Open burning, except fires and campfires within constructed fire grates inside developed camp and picnic grounds, charcoal grills and wood burning stoves at private residences. These areas must be cleared of all flammable materials. (Exemptions allowed for agricultural burning on a per case basis may be granted by appropriate fire jurisdiction).
- The sale or use of fireworks without a permit.
- Outdoor smoking except inside a vehicle or stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren of all flammable materials.

Violations of the fire restrictions can result in fines and mandatory court appearances.

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