

# Aspen Fire Protection District

## -Informational Memo-

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### Stage 2 Fire Restrictions effective August 14, 2020, at 12:01AM for all areas of the Aspen Fire Protection District and Pitkin County

With the support of all of the Pitkin County Fire Chiefs (Aspen Fire Protection District, Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority, and the Carbondale and Rural Fire Protection District), the Pitkin County Sheriff's Office has placed Pitkin County under Stage 2 fire restrictions effective 12:01 AM Friday, August 14, 2020.

The new fire restrictions are in effect until further notice and cover all State, public, private, incorporated and unincorporated lands within the Aspen Fire Protection District and Pitkin County. Land management officials from the federal government, including the US Forest Service - White River National Forest, and Bureau of Land Management, are implementing their own similar restrictions.

"Our request to the public is pretty simple: Help keep our community safe by taking yourself out of the equation of potentially starting a fire by accident," Chief Rick Balentine said on Friday. "Please respect the restrictions and don't take any chances. We're counting on everyone, residents and visitors alike, to be good stewards of the environment as we navigate through this extreme fire danger."

These new Stage 2 fire restrictions supersede the existing Stage 1 fire restrictions that have been in place since July 2, 2020.

All residents and visitors who violate these fire restrictions will face penalties to include fines of \$500 (first offense), \$750 (second offense), and \$1000 (third offense) as well as possible jail time.

The following is a list of activities and/or actions that are restricted under the new Stage 2 fire restrictions and apply to all people within the Aspen Fire Protection District and Pitkin County:

1. **Prohibited:** Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire, or stove fire. This includes charcoal grills and barbecues, coal and wood-burning stoves and sheepherder's stoves and includes use in developed camping and picnic grounds.
  - a. Gas grills/stoves/lanterns using pressurized liquid or gas that include shut-off valves are permitted when used in an area clear of flammable material like grasses or pine needles for three feet in all directions.
2. **Prohibited:** All smoking, except if you are inside of an enclosed vehicle, trailer, or building.
3. **Prohibited:** Use of any fireworks including sparklers, rockets, exploding targets, and tracers or incendiaries.
4. **Prohibited:** Using an explosive. This includes, but is not limited to, fuses or blasting caps.

5. **Prohibited:** Welding or operating an acetylene or other torch with open flame.
6. **Prohibited:** Operating or using any internal combustion engine (e.g. generator, ATV, dirt bike) without an approved spark arresting device that is properly installed and in effective working order.
7. **Prohibited:** Operating a chainsaw without an approved spark arrestor that is properly installed and having a fire extinguisher (8 oz. by weight or larger) and round point shovel (at least 35 inches) readily available for use.

The public is encouraged to visit [www.PitkinEmergency.com](http://www.PitkinEmergency.com) for more information about current fire restrictions.

For further questions, please contact:

The Aspen Fire Protection District 970-925-5532

The Pitkin County Sheriff's Office 970-920-5300

The Carbondale and Rural Fire Protection District 970-963-2491

The Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority 970-340-7040

The White River National Forest 970-963-2255