



OFFICE OF THE SUMMIT COUNTY SHERIFF

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FIRE RESTRICTIONS TO GO INTO EFFECT JUNE 8, 2012 IN SUMMIT COUNTY

SUMMIT COUNTY, COLORADO – The Board of County Commissioners, at the request of Summit County Sheriff John Minor, has signed Resolution 2012-38 enacting Stage I Fire Restrictions in unincorporated areas of Summit County, effective Friday, June 8, 2012. This measure was based upon the existing dry conditions in Summit County and the occurrence of wildfires elsewhere in the state. These restrictions are being made in coordination with the United States Forest Service, which is also instituting Stage 1 Fire Restrictions in the White River National Forest. The current fire danger indices are at the High to Very High level and the weather forecast predicts continued dryness with the potential for high winds.

“Fire restrictions are something that we do not take lightly,” said Lake Dillon Fire-Rescue Chief Dave Parmley. “But with the current conditions existing in our surrounding forests and a warm, relatively dry long-range forecast, it is best for the safety of everyone, including homeowners and those enjoying outdoor activities, to take the utmost precautions to prevent a wildfire from occurring due to unawareness of conditions or an act of carelessness.”

A Stage 1 Fire Restriction prohibits open fires, the use of fireworks and the sale of fireworks within Summit County, with the following exceptions:

1. Fires contained within liquid-fueled, gas-fueled or charcoal-fueled stoves or grills;
2. Fires contained within self contained outdoor fire bowls, chimneys or chimineas with screen covers on private property (if placed on a concrete or asphalt surface);
3. Charcoal-fueled fires within permanent fire pits on privately owned property if: a) such contained charcoal fire is under constant supervision; b) adequate fire suppression apparatus is available at the location of the contained charcoal fire; c) notice of the contained charcoal fire has been provided to the local fire district; and d) notice of the contained charcoal fire has been provided to the Summit County Sheriff's Office;
4. Pre-approved public fireworks displays;
5. Fires in the designated areas of the following improved campgrounds: Pine Cove Campground, Peak One Campground, Heaton Bay Campground, Prospector Campground, Windy Point Campground, Lowry Campground, Blue River Campground, Prairie Point Campground, McDonald Flats Campground, Cataract Campground, Davis Springs Campground, Willows Campground, Elliot Creek Campground, North Cow Creek Campground, South Cow Creek Campground.

“The time is right,” explained Red, White and Blue Fire District Chief Lori Miller. “We support these restrictions one hundred percent, and we are relying on the citizens and visitors of Summit County to remain vigilant and help prevent human-caused fires throughout what could potentially be a long and challenging fire season.”

An “Open Fire” is defined as any outdoor fire, including but not limited to campfires, warming fires, bonfires, or the prescribed burning of fence rows, fields, wildlands, trash and debris. Notifications to local fire districts and the Sheriff’s Office regarding charcoal-fueled fires within permanent fire pits on privately owned property may be made by calling the Summit County Communication Center at (970) 668-8600.

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