

# TAHOE DOUGLAS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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Todd Moss, Assistant Chief  
Eric Guevin, Fire Marshal



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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **District Declares Fire Restrictions for Recreational Fires**

Stateline, Nevada August 20, 2020 -Effective immediately Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District has declared fire season restrictions to ban all open burning utilizing wood and charcoal. The Fire District has also **during** Red Flag Warnings suspended all sources of outdoor open flame, including gas fire pits/grills and pellet grills/smokers.

Recreational fires (IFC 307.1.1) (Wood/Charcoal Campfires) are not permitted at all during these fire season restrictions. These restrictions standardize the District with the existing requirements throughout the Tahoe Basin.

The suspension takes effect at noon, Friday, August 21, 2020 until further notice and will be enforced with extinguishment and possible fines and citations into court. All sources of outdoor open flame are prohibited during Red Flag periods, including all outdoor propane (LPG) and Natural Gas fired appliances. The actual hours of Red Flag Warnings may vary by specific atmospheric conditions; check the NOAA website or follow them on social media for the latest Red Flag timing.

The National Weather Service (NWS) in Reno issues Red Flag Warnings to alert Tahoe Basin land management agencies about the onset, or possible onset of critical weather and fuel moisture conditions that could lead to rapid or dramatic increases in wildfire activity. This could be due to low relative humidity, strong winds, dry fuels or any combination thereof. A Red Flag Warning is issued when the above conditions are expected to be met within the next 24 hours.

According to Federal and State land management officials, the area is facing an elevated risk of a severe and potentially catastrophic wildfire season due to: drought conditions; dense; dry vegetation; and other factors. Given the critical threat of wildfires and extreme fire behavior statewide and in the Tahoe Basin, TDFPD is affecting the necessary burn ban. Statistics in early June showed that of 98 area wildfires; 96 were caused by human activities that could have been prevented.

Lately, area firefighters and equipment were pressed into action with the 46,386-acre Loyaltan Fire still burning and recent 120-acre Rock Farm Fire in Washoe County off of Mount Rose Highway, where two structures were lost. With lightning burst causing several simultaneous smaller fires across the region, all agencies remain busy. It's important to understand how quickly these dangerous weather patterns

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can tax the region's response system. While our stations remain fully staffed, we rely heavily on our mutual aid partners and during these busy times. We need the public to exercise caution, follow all restrictions, and remain prepared for emergencies.

"While most all of us enjoy a campfire or recreational fire in our backyard, currently, the risk is just too great and this small action can lead to a catastrophic fire endangering the lives, property and the forest!" said Fire Marshal Guevin. The public can learn more about actions to take to prevent and prepare for wildfire by visiting District website or [www.TahoeLivingwithFire.com](http://www.TahoeLivingwithFire.com)

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