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# Arizona State Forestry Division

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: April 17, 2014

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### State Forester Issues Fire Restrictions On State-Owned Lands Outside Incorporated Municipalities Effective April 18, 2014

PHOENIX, AZ (April 17, 2014) – Due to the increased risk of wildfire in the State of Arizona, State Forester Scott Hunt announced today that the Arizona State Forestry Division will be implementing fire restrictions on State-owned and State-managed lands. The restrictions are effective April 18, 2014 at noon and will continue until further notice.

Fire restrictions are necessary due to existing very high fire danger to prevent human-caused wildfires and protect public health and safety. Contributing factors include high temperatures, low humidity, and persistently dry vegetation that provide conditions for rapid spread of wildfire.

“The State has seen an increase in the number of wildfires in the last few weeks, with most being human-caused,” said State Forester Scott Hunt. “Implementing fire restrictions will reduce the threat of wildfire to communities and to natural resources; Arizona residents can do their part in preventing human-caused fires by following the fire restrictions guidelines for State-owned and State-managed lands.”

These fire restrictions cover all unincorporated State-owned and State-managed lands south of the Grand Canyon, including all State Trust lands, all Game and Fish Wildlife Areas, all Arizona State Parks (State Parks will remain open with campfires allowed in developed campgrounds; please visit <http://azstateparks.com> for more information), and all Department of Transportation highway right-of-way property not owned by Federal land management agencies. State lands north of the Grand Canyon are not included in fire restrictions at this time.

The *restrictions* are as follows:

- Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire, charcoal, coal, or wood stove other than in a developed campsite or picnic area is ***prohibited***. ***Exemptions*** include persons using a device solely fueled by liquid petroleum or LPG fuels that can be turned on and off.
- Smoking is ***prohibited unless***: it is within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site/improved site, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials.

- The discharging or using of any kind of fireworks and incendiary devices is **prohibited**.
- Welding or operating acetylene or other torch device with an open flame is **prohibited**.

Additional ***exemptions*** to the above-listed restrictions include:

- Any Federal, State, or local officer or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.
- All land within a city boundary is exempted unless otherwise stated in city ordinance.

If local authorities have imposed stronger restrictions than those listed above, then the local restrictions shall apply. These restrictions do not apply to private lands.

For more information regarding fire restrictions, please visit the fire restrictions website at <http://firerestrictions.us/az>. Additional information about the Arizona State Forestry Division and the Notice of Fire Restrictions may be found at [www.azsf.gov](http://www.azsf.gov).

These restrictions are effective April 18, 2014 and will continue until rescinded.

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