



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Warm Springs Agency

P.O. Box 1239

Warm Springs, Oregon 97761

In Reply Refer To: Executive Direction

## MEMORANDUM

TO: AUSTIN SMITH JR., GM CTWS NATURAL RESOURCES  
MALCOLM VOLLMER, FOREST MANAGER, CTWS  
SCOTT SPAULDING, W.S. FIRE DEPARTMENT  
CRYSTAL LEVITT, W.S. POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CTWS TRIBAL COUNCIL  
SUE MATTERS, KWSO  
OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
US FOREST SERVICE

FROM: BRENDA BREMNER, SUPERINTENDENT

DATE: August 7, 2023

SUBJECT: 2023 FIRE SEASON UPDATE

At 2400 on August 7, 2023, the Warm Springs Indian Reservation will update fire season restrictions. All regulations governing any timber industry or other outside activities will be enforced. As our current fire danger and risk is increase due to changes in ERC's and Fuel Moistures, new regulations will be implemented.

As the fire danger increases during the declared season the restrictions will follow the regulations covered by the National Fire Danger Rating System, Industrial Fire Precaution Levels and Warm Springs Mobilization and Dispatch plan.

As of 2400 hours on August 7, 2023, the Warm Springs Reservation will go into the following Industrial Fire Precautions:

Zone 1 – IFPL Level 4  
Zone 2 – IFPL Level 3  
Zone 3 – IFPL Level 3

Currently the ERC's are at the 97<sup>th</sup> percentile and dead Fuels Moistures are continuing to reduce and live fuel moistures are reducing, the Warm Springs Reservation fire danger is increasing to **EXTREME**. IFPLs will be re-evaluated on a weekly basis and will be changed as needed.

In addition, a reservation-wide Burn Ban will be in effect immediately.

## **Industrial Fire Precaution Levels**

### **Level I - Closed Season**

Fire precaution requirements are in effect. A Fire Watch/Security is required at this and all higher levels unless otherwise waived.

### **Level II - Partial Hootowl**

The following may operate only between the hours of 8 p.m. and 1 p.m. local time:

- Power saws except at loading sites
- Cable yarding
- Blasting
- Welding or cutting of metal

### **Level III - Partial Shutdown**

The following are prohibited except as indicated:

- Cable yarding - except that gravity operated logging systems employing nonmotorized carriages may operate between 8 p.m. and 1 p.m. when all blocks and moving lines are suspended 10 feet above the ground except the line between the carriage and the chokers.
- Power saws - except power saws may be used at loading sites and on tractor/skidder operations between the hours of 8 p.m. and 1 p.m. local time.

In addition, the following are permitted to operate between the hours of 8 p.m. and 1 p.m. local time:

- Tractor, skidder, feller-buncher, forwarder, or shovel logging operations where tractors, skidders, or other equipment with a blade capable of constructing fireline are immediately available to quickly reach and effectively attack a fire start
- Mechanized loading or hauling of any product or material
- Blasting
- Welding or cutting of metal
- Any other spark emitting operation not specifically mentioned.

## **Level IV - General Shutdown**

All operations are prohibited.

These IFPL ratings can be found at

<http://www.blm.gov/or/resources/fire/industrial-fire-level.php>

**Fire Watch requirements WSA – IFPL 1 (1 hour) IFPL 2 (2 hour fire watch) IFPL 3 (3 hour fire watch) IFPL 4 – complete shutdown 24 hour**

## **Energy Release Component**

The **energy release component** (ERC) is a number related to the available energy (**BTU**) per unit area (square foot) within the flaming front at the head of a fire. Daily variations in ERC are due to changes in moisture content of the various fuels present, both live and dead. Since this number represents the potential "heat release" per unit area in the flaming zone, it can provide guidance to several important fire activities. It may also be considered a composite fuel moisture value as it reflects the contribution that all live and dead fuels have to potential fire intensity. The ERC is a cumulative or "build-up" type of index. As live fuels cure and dead fuels dry, the ERC values get higher, thus providing a good reflection of drought conditions. The scale is open-ended or unlimited and, as with other **NFDRS** components, is relative. Conditions producing an ERC value of 24 represent a potential heat release twice that of conditions resulting in an ERC value of 12.

**Warm Springs Agency** Fire Management uses the NFDRS ERC index to determine early and mid-fire season IFPL and fire danger ratings. Based on historic weather conditions and using the Fuel Model G timber model we are able to accurately determine the start of fire season and then the elevating fire danger levels based on ERC outputs. A value of the 60<sup>th</sup> percentile is a good indicator of start or end of elevated danger, from 61<sup>st</sup> to 80<sup>th</sup> percentile is moderate, 81<sup>st</sup> to 90<sup>th</sup> percentiles high and over 91<sup>st</sup> percentile extreme.