

El Paso County Sheriff

Stage II Fire Restrictions

Current restriction stage: Stage II. Check before you burn.

In the interest of public safety, Stage II Restrictions are designed to reduce the likelihood of human-caused fires during periods of continued fire danger.

Prohibited Activities

Not allowed: Open Burning and Fires

All open fires and open burning are prohibited. This includes campfires; warming fires; charcoal grills; pellet stoves; chimineas or other fixed fireplaces and appliances; and the use of wood-burning stoves.

Not allowed: Outdoor Smoking

Outdoor smoking is prohibited except within an enclosed vehicle or building.

Not allowed: Fireworks

The sale or use of fireworks is prohibited during Stage II Fire Restrictions. Legal exception: During the period of May 31 through July 5, Colorado law requires the Board of County Commissioners to adopt a resolution before this prohibition can be enforced.

Not allowed: Explosives

The use of explosives is prohibited.

Not allowed: Open Burning Permits

Open Burning Permits are invalid during Stage II Fire Restrictions.

Allowed With Restrictions

Indoor Fireplaces and Wood-Burning Stoves

Permitted only when located within a building.

Liquid-Fueled or Gas-Fueled Stoves, Fire Pits, and Appliances

Permitted only when all of these conditions are met:

- Located within a developed campground, developed picnic ground, or at a private residence.
- Uses liquid fuel, propane (LPG), or natural gas.
- The area is cleared at least 3 feet of all flammable materials.
- Flame lengths do not exceed 2 feet.
- The flame can be fully extinguished using a switch, valve, or tip-over safety switch.

Outdoor Welding and Open-Flame

Permitted only when all of these conditions are met:

- Work is performed in an area at least 30 feet in diameter that is clear of flammable vegetation.
- A fire watch is established.
- A fire extinguisher or water supply is immediately available.
- Flame lengths do not exceed 2 feet.
- Applicable fire protection district requirements are followed.

Irrigation Ditch Burning

Permitted only when all of these conditions are met:

- The ditch is located within and completely surrounded by irrigated farmland.
- Burning is necessary for crop survival.
- Prior permission has been obtained from the Sheriff.

Legal Authority and Fireworks Restriction Period

Pursuant to state law, C.R.S. section 30-15-401(1)(n.7), and County Ordinance No. 22-001, adopted by the El Paso County Board of County Commissioners, from May 31 to July 5, the use and sale of permissible fireworks shall not be restricted unless a resolution is adopted by the Board.

Stay Informed

Sign up for Peak Alerts to receive emergency notifications about wildfires, evacuations, and other emergencies in El Paso County: [Peak Alerts](#)

Additional Links and Social Media

El Paso County Sheriff fire information: epcsheriffsoffice.com/services/fire-information

Facebook: [@EPCSheriffsOffice](#)

X: [@EPCSheriff](#)

Note

Note: This infographic represents a general summary of restrictions for the unincorporated area of El Paso County, Colorado, pursuant to Ordinance No. 22-001 and the Colorado Revised Statutes. Full details are available here: <https://clerkandrecorder.elpasoco.com/clerk-to-the-board/ordinances>. Residents who live within town or city limits should consult those jurisdictions to determine what restrictions are in place for their area. In the interest of public safety, the Sheriff urges everyone to exercise extreme caution and to use good judgment at all times.