

El Paso County Sheriff

Stage I Fire Restrictions

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

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

Prohibited Activities

Not allowed: Open Burning

All general open burning is prohibited. Any previously issued open burn permits are revoked. Open burning is prohibited during Red Flag Warnings, whether or not fire restrictions are in place.

Not allowed: Fireworks

The sale and use of fireworks are prohibited. Legal exception: From 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: Model Rockets

The launching of model rockets is prohibited.

Not allowed: Explosives

The use of explosive targets and any other outdoor pyrotechnics is prohibited.

Allowed With Restrictions

Campfires and Cooking: Developed Campgrounds, Developed Picnic Areas, and Private Residences

Permitted only under one of the following conditions:

- Campfires and fires are contained within permanently constructed fire grates in areas cleared at least 3 feet of all flammable materials. Rock fire rings are considered temporary.
- Fires are contained within liquid-fueled or gas-fueled stoves, fire pits, or appliances using liquid propane (LPG) or natural gas. The area must be cleared at least 3 feet of all flammable materials, and flame lengths must not exceed 2 feet.
- Charcoal grills, pellet stoves, chimineas, or other fixed fireplaces and appliances are fueled with clean solid materials, such as clean wood or pellets.
- Fireplaces or wood-burning stoves are located within a building.

Outdoor Smoking

Smoking is permitted only within an enclosed vehicle or building, at a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least 3 feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials.

Outdoor Welding and Torch Operations

Welding or operating an acetylene or similar torch with an open flame is permitted only when performed in an area cleared of all vegetation and flammable materials.

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 through 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

This document provides a general summary of Stage I Fire 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 at: [El Paso County 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 use good judgment at all times.