



FORT APACHE FIRE CLOSURE  
STAGE 2 FIRE RESTRICTIONS

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Executive Order No. 07202301

*Ordering Stage 2 Fire Restrictions and Limited Forest Closures  
on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation*

*The office of the Executive hereby implements the following restrictions, pursuant to authority vested in the Chairman of the White Mountain Apache Tribe by Section 5.3 (B) of the Government Code.*

The Chairman of the White Mountain Apache Tribe ("Tribe"), by signing this Executive Order, hereby imposes restrictions on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation ("Reservation"). ***This Executive Order applies to all Tribal members and non-members.*** This Executive Order is needed to protect our lands against the current fire danger that threatens the Tribe's natural resources, timber, wildlife, economic resources, security, health, welfare and public safety. It is the intent of this Order to reduce the likelihood of human-caused wildfires on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation. ***This Executive Order goes into effect at 12:00 a.m., Saturday July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and will continue indefinitely*** until it is decided that the fire danger is reduced to acceptable levels.

Many of the publicly-open recreational lakes and campsites located on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation shall remain open to the public, subject to the hereby Stage 2 Fire Restrictions, and additional restrictions as may be necessary. This Order shall be strictly enforced due to the severe drought that has created dangerous conditions conducive to human-caused or lightning-ignited fires.

**I. STAGE 2 FIRE RESTRICTIONS IN EFFECT:**

**A. GENERAL RESTRICTIONS:**

- i. **NO CAMPFIRES:** Building, maintaining, attending, or using fire, campfire or charcoal-burning devices are prohibited until further noticed. The use of propane campfire or fire pit devices is prohibited as well.  
*EXEMPTIONS: Fires that are related to traditional ceremonies, religious events, wakes, and residential/tailgate cooking fires are allowed within the communities and within designated ceremonial areas only. (Propane grills are allowed.)*
- ii. No debris burning until further notice.
- iii. Smoking is prohibited, except within an enclosed vehicle or building.
- iv. Fireworks are always prohibited on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation.
- v. Discharging of firearms is prohibited.
- vi. All motorized travel is restricted to developed roads.
- vii. Operating an internal combustion engine other than a motor vehicle in forest and woodland areas is prohibited until further notice.

- viii. Welding or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame in forest and woodland areas is prohibited until further notice.
- ix. Woodcutting is prohibited from 10:00 a.m. through 8:00 p.m. and is restricted within the closed areas of the reservation.

**B. INDUSTRIAL RESTRICTIONS:**

- i. Power saws are prohibited from 10:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. for any wood cutting/thinning activity, except project crews which are properly equipped and performing fuels treatment projects may continue to work until 2:00 p.m. with one-half hour of monitoring by the entire crew following operations plus the provision identified under fire guards. Fire guards shall remain on duty each day for two hours after wood work has stopped. Fuels projects may mitigate this requirement with the addition of fire qualified engine patrols for two hours following completion of operations for the day. This restriction does not apply to residential and commercial properties.
- ii. Crawler-tractors, skidders, and sheers may be used until 10:00 a.m. Turbine-driven rubber-tire skidders, feller bunchers, delimiters, and clearing equipment may be used until 12:00 noon. Operation on mineral soil involving road excavating, watering, grading, surfacing, rock crushing, and/or other equipment maintenance may continue with unrestricted hours. Operations NOT on mineral soil must also shut down at 12:00 noon.
- iii. Welding is prohibited by the general public and is only allowed by authorized Tribal, Federal, or commercial personnel, and it is limited to commercial areas. (welding is not allowed in forest or woodland areas). Authorized personnel must have a fire extinguisher on hand and must stop work at 12:00 noon.

**II. RESTRICTED and CLOSED AREAS**

A. Restricted areas include those within the following boundaries and as indicated on the attached map:

- East along Highway 60 from Cibecue Junction to Salt River Canyon Bridge
- South along Salt River from the bridge to the SW corner/boundary of the reservation
- West from the Salt River along the western Reservation boundary up to the O22 Road
- North along the O22 Road and G21 Road from the western Reservation Boundary to Cibecue then on BIA Rt. 12 to the Hwy 60 Junction
- Traffic is restricted South of BIA Rt. 12, G21 and O22 roads

B. **Authorized Personnel for closed areas:** All areas closed within this Executive Order shall remain open for fire-fighting professionals and individuals on official Tribal business by relevant Tribal Programs, BIA personnel, timber harvesting activities, and critical infrastructure personnel. All such program personnel/vehicles need to be equipped with fire mitigation measures such as fire extinguishers, tools, radio communications, and PPE (some combination of one or more of these items). The following departments and programs will collaborate with the Game Rangers and inform them of authorized staff and authorized locations where work is occurring:

- Tribal Forestry staff, crews, and contractors;
- BIA Fire and Forestry personnel and crews;
- Game Rangers and Forest Ranger;
- Game and Fish staff and crews (Wildlife, Fisheries, Recreation);
- Land Operations;
- Livestock Associations;
- Hydrology;
- Cultural Resources and Archaeology;
- Environmental Protection;
- Public Works;
- Transportation and Roads Departments;
- Critical infrastructure personnel; and
- Public Safety Officers, including Police, Fire and Rescue, and EMS.

### III. PENALTIES AND FINES

**This Order is effective Saturday July 8<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 a.m** (immediately after midnight July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023). This policy shall remain effective until conditions improve at which time an announcement will be issued by the Tribe to lift the restrictions imposed herein. Anyone that violates this Order shall be subject to civil and/or criminal fines and penalties up to \$2,000.00 and may be subject to imprisonment, where applicable, damages, and federal prosecution if unlawful actions lead to loss of life or natural resources.

### IV. ENFORCEMENT

The Tribal Forestry Department and Fire and Rescue, in conjunction with BIA Fire Management, and Game and Fish, Tribal Forest Rangers, and Tribal Police shall inform the public of any supplemental restrictions and are responsible for monitoring and enforcing full compliance with the policy as stated herein. This Order is to be distributed to all Tribal programs, departments, enterprises, and federal, local, and state agencies, as well as to members of the news media. Furthermore, all Tribal Agency and Enterprise supervisors shall cooperate fully and provide any assistance necessary to help carry out the terms and conditions specified in this Executive Order.

KASEY VELASQUEZ

Kasey Velasquez, Chairman  
White Mountain Apache Tribe

Issued this 7th day of July 2023