

El Paso County Sheriff's Office

"Serving the community for over 150 years."

Bill Elder, Sheriff



El Paso County Sheriff's Office
27 East Vermijo Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903-2280
Sergeant Deborah Mynatt, Public Information Officer
Office: (719) 520-7141, Email: deborahmynatt@elpasoco.com

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: August 24, 2020 [6:00 AM]

Sheriff Bill Elder Elevates Fire Restrictions from Stage I to Stage II

A meeting was called by the Pikes Peak Region Wildfire Preparedness Group (PPRWPG) which consists of the following participating agencies: The El Paso County Sheriff's Office, Colorado Springs Fire Department, Colorado Springs Utilities, Pikes Peak Fire Chiefs, Division of Fire Prevention and Control, and the North East Teller County Fire Protection District.

After discussion and collaboration with the PPRWPG, Sheriff Bill Elder has elevated fire restrictions from Stage I to Stage II effective August 24, 2020, at 12:00 PM. This elevation primarily impacts campfire and smoking activities over those restrictions that had been in place during Stage I. Due to current and future forecast conditions, they determined these measures are necessary to heighten fire hazard awareness, reduce fire risks, and protect health and safety.

These restrictions will be effective on August 24, 2020, at 12:00 PM (MDT). The Order remains in effect until rescinded.

The following activities are prohibited during Stage II Fire Restrictions:

- Open burning defined as campfires and warming fires, charcoal grills and outdoor wood burning stoves, the use of explosives, outdoor welding or use of acetylene or other torch with open flames other than in an area cleared of all flammable materials. Fires contained within liquid-fueled or gas-fueled stoves are permitted.
- The use or sale of fireworks of all kinds.
- Outdoor smoking except within an enclosed vehicle or building.

Violations of Stage II Fire Restrictions in unincorporated El Paso County may result in a fine up to \$1000.

Please see this link: <https://bit.ly/34odVsA>, for current Burn Ban guidelines to be clear on what is and what is not allowed during this enacted ban. With this information, El Paso County citizens will be able to avoid legal ramifications due to burning outside of the scope of the ban.

The El Paso County Sheriff's Office urges all citizens of and visitors to Colorado Springs and unincorporated El Paso County to abide by the Order and share in the responsibility of keeping our community safe. Please report any suspected violations of the Order by calling 719-390-5555.

###

MR 20-142

El Paso County, Colorado
www.elpasosheriffsoffice.com



twitter.com/EPCSheriff



facebook.com/EPCSheriffsOffice



youtube.com/EPCSheriff

