

El Paso County Sheriff's Office

"Serving the community for over 150 years."

Bill Elder, Sheriff



El Paso County Sheriff's Office

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MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: May 16, 2022 [8:00 AM]

Unincorporated El Paso County Now In Stage II Fire Restrictions

After discussion and collaboration with the Pikes Peak Region Wildfire Preparedness Group, Sheriff Bill Elder has elevated fire restrictions from Stage I to Stage II effective May 16, 2022, at 12:00 p.m.

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 May 16, 2022, at 12:00 p.m. (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 The Order remains in effect until rescinded.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.

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MR 22-054

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