

## **Douglas County Fire Restriction Criteria and Methodology**

The Sheriff of Douglas County under his powers as County Fire Warden for unincorporated areas of the County, acting under Colorado Revised Statutes and approved County Ordinances, is authorized to restrict Open Fires, Open Burning and the Use of Fireworks. The purpose of such restrictions is to preserve and protect the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Douglas County, Colorado by preventing forest and grass fires when a high danger of such fires exists.

When considering whether to implement fire restrictions in Douglas County, the Office of Emergency Management utilizes a science-based criteria worksheet known as the Pueblo Zone Fire Restriction Evaluation Guidelines. This worksheet was developed by the U.S. Forest Service and agreed upon by Douglas County to utilize jointly in an effort to maintain consistency between partner agencies and overlapping jurisdictions. This worksheet incorporates objective scientific data and subjective operational and environmental elements to provide a comprehensive assessment of overall fire danger.

Based on the outcomes of the Fire Restriction Evaluation Guidelines, the Sheriff may implement Stage 1 or Stage 2 Fire Restrictions. Details for each stage of fire restrictions can be found [here](#). When the Sheriff enacts fire restrictions, they are valid and enforced in all areas of Unincorporated Douglas County, to include lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service. Municipalities within Douglas County are responsible for implementing and enforcing their own fire restrictions.

While significant effort is made to maintain consistency between partner agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service and Douglas County Municipalities, as well as adjacent bordering counties, there are times when jurisdictions may be operating under differing levels of fire restrictions. Each authorized jurisdiction is ultimately responsible for their own fire restriction decisions and each jurisdiction may have different fire danger conditions.

When implemented, Douglas County Fire Restrictions are widely announced via social media, traditional media and numerous websites:

- [Douglas County Sheriff's Office](#)
- [Douglas County Government](#)
- [Colorado Fire Restrictions](#)

Further questions regarding Douglas County Fire Restrictions can be directed to the Office of Emergency Management:

- Phone: 303-660-7589
- Email: [oem@dcsheriff.net](mailto:oem@dcsheriff.net)
- Website: <https://www.dcsheriff.net/sheriffs-office/divisions/emergency-management/>