

Taos County Fire & EMS Department  
1397 Weimer Rd  
Taos, NM, 87571  
(575) 737-6469



## *For Immediate Release*

05/20/2020

# **Fire Restrictions Implemented for Taos County**

Taos County has implemented fire restrictions effective May 20<sup>th</sup> 2020 until further notice.

### **Areas Affected:**

All areas of Taos County will be subject to the fire restrictions.

***Excluded Areas:** All Municipalities are excluded within their city limits; these include The Town of Taos, Village of Questa, Town of Red River, and Taos Ski Valley.*

### **What is Prohibited:**

- **OPEN BURNING IS PROHIBITED:** Agricultural burning; bonfires; burning of explosives and fireworks; campfires; ceremonial fires; controlled burning; outdoor cooking fires; outdoor heating fires; hot torch burning; open burning; open flames; slash piles; outdoor smoking; and weed burning
- **SMOKING OUTDOORS IS PROHIBITED:** Smoking is restricted to designated areas, within structures, or inside vehicles equipped with ashtrays and on paved, cemented or surfaced areas with at least three foot in diameter that is cleared of flammable materials.

### **Exceptions:**

Cooking and heating devices that use kerosene, or propane as fuel if used with adequate fire protection and defensible space; commercial grade smokers with adequate fire protection and defensible space; commercially constructed personal smokers with adequate fire protection and defensible space. Charcoal barbecue grills and coal-burning stoves are permitted, provided that they are located in an area devoid of flammable vegetation or ground fuels within 30 feet of the grill or stove.

Metal welding will require a permit; welding permits will only be issued to businesses that provide welding services that are essential to the operation of the business. To obtain a welding permit please contact the County Fire Marshal at (575) 737-6457 or at [james.hampton@taoscounty.org](mailto:james.hampton@taoscounty.org)

### **Violations:**

Any individual, firm, partnership, or other entity found violating the Taos County fire restrictions shall be deemed guilty of a petty misdemeanor and may be punished by imprisonment for up to ninety (90) days, or a fine not to exceed three hundred dollars (\$300.00), or both.