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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, JUNE 16, 2022

NEWS RELEASE

Dry conditions call for tightened Smoking and Fire restrictions in the City

Durango, CO: Durango City Manager José Madrigal has tightened Smoking and Fire Restrictions for the city because of extremely dry conditions in the area.

Effective Immediately, it is ordered follows:

1. FIRE RESTRICTIONS

- a. All open fires or any kind or the burning of any material of any kind on public or private property within the City is prohibited unless the specific device uses pressurized liquid or gas and includes a shut-off valve (such as a gas grill).
- b. Welding, pipefitting, metal grinding, or operating an acetylene or other torch with open flame unless the following requirements are met: a 20-foot radius safe zone free of vegetation and all flammable materials, and in addition to the equipment operator, a fire watch individual equipped with one (1) 2 ½ gallon pressurized fire extinguisher or a 5lb. ABC extinguisher or a pressurized water supply and proper hand tools must be readily available and on-site to watch for fires.
- c. Operating or using any internal combustion engine, including but not limited to chainsaws, generators, and all-terrain vehicles, unless equipped with a spark arresting device properly installed, maintained, and in effective working order meeting either Department of Agriculture, Forest Service Standard 5100-1a or Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) recommended practice J335(b) and J350 (a).
- d. Operating a chainsaw, unless a chemical pressurized fire extinguisher of not less than 8 ounces capacity by weight is in the operator's immediate vicinity, and one size 0 or larger round, pointed shovel with an overall length of at least 36 inches is with fueling supplies and is readily available: and
- e. Using an explosive of any kind, including but not limited to fireworks, blasting caps, or any other incendiary device which may result in the ignition of flammable material within the City is prohibited. Blasting in development areas or construction areas with continuous fire watch may be permitted with written authorization of the Fire Chief of DFPD.

f. The use of floating sky lanterns, fire balloons or acetylene balloons.

2. SMOKING RESTRICTIONS

Smoking, as defined in Section 21-111 of the Durango City Code, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, or while stopped in an area that is at least 3 feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable vegetation.

The city will attempt to seek voluntary compliance through education and warning notices prior to the issuance of any citations. Violations of this Order are subject to the penalties set forth in Emergency Ordinance 2022-17.

This Smoking and Fire Restriction Order shall remain in effect until modified or revoked by further Order of the City Manager.

Changes to the city's Smoking and Fire Restrictions come alongside La Plata County and San Juan National Forest implementing stricter fire restriction.

For more information on Fire conditions visit the [Durango Fire Protection District's](#) website