



April 28, 2022

Effective immediately Otero County is issuing Burn Restrictions due to increasing fire activity and dry conditions. The increased fire danger stems from insufficient moisture and dry fuel conditions that exist across Otero County. These restrictions are for areas within the Lincoln National Forest as determined by: USFS Fire Restrictions, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and New Mexico State Forestry Resolutions. Private lands and sub-divisions located within, adjacent to or within close proximity of the outer boundaries of the Lincoln National Forest, BLM, and NM State Forestry as designated by the afore mentioned agencies and all the unincorporated areas of Otero County.

Prohibited

1. Igniting, building, maintaining, or using a fire, campfire, or stove fire, including charcoal and briquettes.
2. Smoking is prohibited, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least three (3) feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material.
3. All open flame burning.

Exemptions

1. Prescribed fire operations conducted by the US Forest Service, fire training/operations being held by County Volunteer Fire Departments, and the Otero County Fire Fighter Training Facility are also exempt.
2. Persons using a device solely fueled by liquid petroleum or LPG fuels that can be turned on and off. Such devices can only be used in an area that is barren or cleared of all overhead and surrounding flammable materials within three (3) feet of the device.

Exceptions

1. Charcoal grills and wood and coal stoves within yards associated with a residence or on the premises of a business.

Implementation

1. These restrictions are to remain in effect until the ban is rescinded by declaration of the Otero County Emergency Services Director or the Otero County Manager upon their receipt of documented evidence from the National Weather Service and the US Forest Service that the fire danger and drought levels in Otero County have abated. The Board of County Commissioners may rescind or modify this burn restriction at any duly convened public meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.

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2. Failure to comply with the restrictions in this ban may be chargeable under Otero County Ordinance 13-04 which can be found online at the county website: <https://co.tero.nm.us>, Chapter 111 or a hard copy can be found at the Otero County Administration Building.
3. An exemption or exception does not relieve a person from any civil or criminal liability associated with an uncontrolled fire, including costs associated with wildland fire suppression.

Matthew Clark
Otero County Emergency Services Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew H. Clark".