

FUELWOOD REGULATIONS

FIREWOOD CUTTING

Lake Tahoe Basin

2008



Cutting your own firewood can be fun, but it isn't easy. It is hard physical work. If you have never cut wood before, we recommend you go with someone who has. Their experience could be valuable and save you a lot of time. To help you understand the permit process and the legal requirements of cutting firewood, we have provided you with the information below. *Failure to follow the requirements could result in a cancellation of your permit, a citation, and/or court appearance.*

How Do I Get A Permit?

Firewood permits issued from the USDA Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Mgmt. Unit office are available from June 1st to October 31, 2008. Permits are valid in any of the open designated firewood cutting areas within the Lake Tahoe Basin through October 31, 2008, depending on dry soil conditions. You must be at least 18 years of age and show valid picture identification.

The maximum amount of wood that can be removed per year per household is 10 cords, with a minimum of 2 cords (\$20/cord) per transaction. This wood is for **Personal Use Only** and cannot be sold or traded. **Maps of the firewood cutting areas are considered part of your permit and must be in your possession when obtaining wood.** Maps may be picked up or faxed. Call our office for current open areas.

There are **NO REFUNDS** on permits, for any reason. Plan to get your firewood early. Your permit does not guarantee that you will find the type and amount of wood you desire. You should check the area before purchasing your permit. Areas open and close throughout the season depending on firewood availability, road & fire conditions.

Free-Use Permits

Sometimes free wood is available in areas where the wood has been sitting for a couple

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of years or requires a lot of effort to get it to your truck. Permits are required and you may receive 4 cords per year.

Can I Cut Today?

Before cutting, call (530) 644-6048 for the Forest Service recorded message on fire activity levels and chainsaw restrictions. www.fs.fed.us/r5/eldorado. Call after 4:30 p.m. for information about the following day. Wood cutting may be suspended at any time when the fire danger is high or when the ground is wet. Cutting is permitted only during daylight hours. Check each firewood area map for open hours.

Your Saw Can Start A Fire!

All chainsaws used on National Forests must have an **approved spark arrester** (a stainless steel wire screen in the muffler). The **openings in the screen must be .023 inches or less**. Forest officials may request a check of saws in firewood cutting areas. Forest Service employees are not allowed to take your saw apart so you need to carry the tools needed to remove the exhaust device and expose the spark arrester. Certification is good for one year.

It's The Law

- You must have an **approved spark arrester**, a **shovel** at least 46 inches long, and a state **approved fire extinguisher**.
- During fire restrictions, smoking while you are working is prohibited. If you smoke, you must either smoke in a closed vehicle or clear an area 3 feet wide to bare soil.
- You must have your permit, Fuelwood Regulations (green), load tags, & firewood area map with you when cutting or transporting firewood.
- The Fuelwood Product Removal Record of your permit must be completed and signed in ink before leaving the firewood area.
- Load tags must have date & time punched, and attached to the rear of the load.
- Logs must be cut in lengths of 6 foot or less.
- Do not block roads or gates. Emergency vehicles may need access to the firewood area.

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Which Trees Can I Cut?

In most firewood cutting areas you may only cut downed trees. The back of the Fuelwood Area Map gives information on which trees may be cut; read these instructions carefully.

Measuring Your Load

A standard cord of wood is tightly piled, split, wood measuring 4 by 4 by 8 feet. The amount of wood that may be carried depends on the size of vehicle & weight of the wood. Generally, you can load $\frac{1}{4}$ cord in most small pickups, $\frac{1}{2}$ cord in a short bed truck, and $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ cord in a long bed, full-size pickup. With side boards it can hold $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 cord of wood (see chart, page 3).

Load Tags

Load tags must be attached to your load (nailed or stapled to rear of your vehicle) before leaving the firewood cutting area. Each load tag is divided into 4, quarter cord tags. Attach one $\frac{1}{4}$ load ticket for each quarter cord of wood in the load. Punch out AM or PM and the date.

Make Sure Your Permit is Valid!

Each time you take out a load of wood you must fill out the Fuelwood Product Removal Record on your permit: Date, Time, and Number of Cords.

Help Protect Your Forest

Resource requirements of your permit:

1. Lop and scatter all slash (unused parts of trees).
2. Do not drag wood across the ground. Dragging damages the remaining trees in the area and causes soil erosion.
3. In areas allowing felling trees, make sure the stumps are 6 inches or less from the ground line.
4. Stay on designated roads. Driving your vehicle off-road is not allowed on National Forest lands on the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Safety Tips

- Wear safety helmet, eye protection, earplugs, leather gloves, leg protection, & hard-toed boots.
- Keep both hands on the saw when cutting and keep your body away from the saw.
- Stop the chainsaw motor when walking to and from the work area.
- Allow the the saw to cool for 5 minutes

before refueling.

- Start your saw on the ground.
- Watch for yellow jackets and bees—they are abundant in dry seasons and often make nests in rotting logs and slash piles.
- Don't disturb or cut in environmentally sensitive areas marked with black & blue plastic tape.

Dry Wood = Clean Air

Woods smoke contains unburned gases and ash. Dry wood ensures a hotter fire, reduces air pollution, and heats your home more efficiently. Firewood should be allowed to dry at least 6 to 12 months. Cut your fuelwood early in summer and let it dry during warm months. Wood cut in the fall should be saved for next year.

Start your fire with non-glossy newspaper. Burning garbage, particle board, plywood, coal, and glossy paper can produce dangerous smoke and fumes. Use softwood (pine or fir) to start your fire. Softwood ignites easily, burns fast and hot, and is ideal for kindling. Add hardwood (oak and pinyon pine) later since it takes longer to ignite, but burns slower, releases more heat and produces less smoke.

Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
35 College Drive
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
(530) 543-2694 (voice)
(530) 543-0956 (hearing impaired)
(530) 573-2644 (FAX)
www.fs.fed.us/r5/ltbmu

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Fuelwood Cutters' Reminders

1. If using a chainsaw: you are required to keep a round point shovel (46" long) and a 14 ounce minimum abc/bc dry chemical fire extinguisher within 25 ft. of your saw.
2. Fueling Saws:
 - A. Allow the saw to cool at least 5 minutes before you fuel it.
 - B. Move the saw to a cleared area for fueling.
 - C. A funnel will help prevent fuel spills.
 - D. Before starting the saw after refueling, move it at least 10' away from the fueling area.
3. All gasoline powered saws, splitters, etc. must have a USFS approved spark arrester.

Wood Cutter's Checklist

Saw, shovel, fire extinguisher, permit, phone for fire danger, pen, tacks or nails, water, fire-wood sale area map, first aid kit, wedges, axe, rope, jack and spare tire, safety glasses, ear plugs, gloves and chaps.

Important! Let someone know where you're going and when you will be back!

Approximate Cord Capacities of Various Vehicle Types

Truck Type	Bed Size L D W (in feet)	Maximum Volume* (cubic feet)	Cord Amount (Approx.)
Mini	6.0 x 1.5 x 4.75	37.5	30%
Mini (loaded cab high)	6.0 x 3.0 x 4.75	80.0	60%
Mini long bed	8.0 x 1.5 x 4.75	51.5	40%
Mini long bed (loaded cab high)	8.0 x 3.0 x 4.75	108.5	85%
1/2 ton or 3/4 ton short bed	6.0 x 2.0 x 4.5	48.5	40%
1/2 ton or 3/4 ton short bed (loaded cab high)	6.0 x 4.0 x 4.5	102.5	80%
1/2 ton or 3/4 ton long bed	8.0 x 2.5 x 5.0	94.5	75%
1/2 ton or 3/4 ton long bed (loaded cab high)	8.0 x 4.0 x 5.0	154.5	120%

*5.5 Cubic foot allowance made for wheelwells

A Cord Is A Tightly Stacked Pile: 4 by 4 by 8 Feet = 128 Cubic Feet.

(4/2008)



Forest Products Permit Requirements

Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit USDA Forest Service - 2008



- A valid permit is required for cutting and/or removing any wood products from National Forest Lands.
- Cutting and/or removing any wood products from National Forest System lands without a valid permit is prohibited under 36 CFR 261.6(a through h).
- California Penal Code, Section 384.5, Requires a Bill of Sale or permit to transport or remove forest products.
- Violation of any Federal and/or State laws will be cause for a maximum fine of \$5000 and/or a six month jail sentence. These include requirements listed below:

Requirements

1. The person who signed the permit must be present while cutting & transporting firewood and must show the permit to any forest officials if requested. Cutting can ONLY be done during daylight hours; specific firewood area hours are listed on the firewood area map and information sheet attached to the permit.
2. Permittee must complete Fuelwood Product Removal Record (Date, Time, # of Cords) in permit before transporting each load.
3. For each 1/4 cord to be transported, punch the month and day on each 1/4 load tag and attach all load tags to the rear of the load, so they are visible.
4. All internal combustion engines must be equipped with a USFS Approved Spark Arrester.
5. You must have a shovel (at least 46 inches long) and an approved chemical-type fire extinguisher (14 oz. min.) within 30 unobstructed feet of each operating power saw.
6. During fire restrictions, smoking while working is prohibited. Smoke only within a motor vehicle or while sitting within a 3 foot diameter circle cleared to bare soil.
7. Cut all stumps to 6 inches or less and lop and scatter before bucking/loading wood. Please do not litter.
8. Do not damage or disturb roads, trails, vegetation, or wildlife.
9. Permittees are responsible for knowing fire danger restrictions on chain saws. Call **(530) 543-2697** (recorded message, 24 hours per day) before cutting.
10. Archaeological or historical sites and objects are protected by Federal law. If you find any, leave them undisturbed. Report your finding to the nearest Forest Service office.
11. Permit is for *designated Fuelwood Areas only*. Removing other than designated material, or cutting/ removing material outside of designated areas, is prohibited and is punishable by fine or imprisonment.

Project Activity Level (PAL)	Use Of Internal Combustion Equipment (Chainsaws, Splitters)
A, B, C	Woodcutting Allowed All Day
D	No Woodcutting After 1:00 p.m.