



BIFZ

Burns Interagency Fire Zone



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Industrial Fire Precaution on the Rise; Wildfire Season Active for July

BURNS, Oregon – On Friday, July 14, the Burns Interagency Fire Zone (BIFZ) will move from an Industrial Fire Precaution Level (IFPL) 1 to a level 2, partial hootowl.

IFPL 2 limits the operation of power saws (except at loading sites), cable yarding, blasting, and welding or cutting of metal to only those hours between 8 p.m. and 1 p.m. local time. The IFPL change affects land within the BIFZ, including the Emigrant Creek Ranger District and the southern portion of the Malheur National Forest.

Burns Interagency Communication Center Manager Jonathan Manski said, “Compared to the past few years, we are way ahead with the amount of lightning and lightning-caused fires for this time in July.” Since May 31, BIFZ firefighters have responded to nearly 50 wildfires in Harney County, ranging in size from less than 1-acre to just over 2,000 acres. Local resources have also assisted the Lakeview and Vale Districts and the states of Utah, Colorado, Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona with their suppression efforts this season. Manski continued, “Typically this type of activity in our District doesn’t come until August, but already we’ve seen fires burn aggressively in areas where we didn’t expect them.”

With such conditions, the public is reminded to use extreme caution when experiencing the outdoors and recreating on public land. A regulated fire closure remains in effect on the east side of Steens Mountain, including the Pueblo Mountains, Alvord Desert, and a portion of the Trout Creek Mountains. Fire danger is rated **HIGH**.

For further information on the IFPL, regulated fire closures, or current fire activity, call (541) 573-4519.

To report a wildfire, call (541) 573-1000.

