

# NEWS RELEASE

**Kaibab National Forest  
Coconino National Forest**

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## **Forest Service Urges Caution With Fire Over Memorial Day Weekend**

WILLIAMS, Ariz. – Due to precipitation last week and forecasted cooler temperatures later this week, the Kaibab and Coconino National Forests will not have fire restrictions in place over the Memorial Day weekend. However, forest managers urge vigilance with camp fires, stoves, smoking and other devices and activities that could cause wildfires.

“People should come and enjoy both the Kaibab and Coconino forests over the holiday weekend, but they should also remember that everyone has the responsibility to prevent human-caused wildfires,” said Liz Schuppert, public services staff officer for the Kaibab National Forest.

Forest Service fire crews are geared up and ready to respond to any fires, whether human- or naturally-caused. Additional patrols will also be in the forests over the holiday weekend to inform visitors and enforce rules.

Forest Service fire prevention specialists said there are many things people can do to ensure a safe weekend. One tip for those planning to have a camp fire is to always bring along enough water to put it out. Another tip is to always build camp fires in appropriate locations. In general, forest visitors should use existing camp fire rings to minimize impacts to the area and to the soil. A fire should always be built in an area with bare dirt surrounding it.

“It is critical that a camp fire never be left unattended,” Schuppert said. “Keep any camp fire small, and be sure that it is fully out before leaving the area. It should be cold to the touch.”

Fire prevention specialists also emphasize the importance of using caution with other devices and activities that could start fires. For example, campers should be extremely careful with cigarettes, charcoal grills and catalytic converters.

“We all have a role to play in preventing unwanted, human-caused fires,” Schuppert said. “We ask everyone visiting the Kaibab and Coconino forests this Memorial Day weekend to be good stewards of their public lands by practicing fire safety.”

Fire managers will continue to evaluate weather and fuel conditions over the holiday weekend and will re-evaluate the need for fire restrictions early next week.

For information about fire restrictions on other public lands across Arizona and New Mexico, call toll-free 1-877-864-6985 or visit <http://www.publiclands.org/firenews/AZ.php>.

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