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(S.D.)-Fire Restrictions Downgraded In Black Hills



By: Chris Fankhauser Posted at: 10/11/2012 09:59 AM

(Rapid City)- Fire use and smoking restrictions in the Black Hills Forest Fire Protection District and the Black Hills National Forest have been downgraded to Stage 1 restrictions. Restrictions have also been downgraded to Stage 1 in Bear Butte State Park near Sturgis, Custer State Park, Sheps Canyon, Cheyenne and Bailey Lakeside Use Areas at Angostura Reservoir, and the Rocky Point Recreational camping area near Belle Fourche. The Stage 2 restrictions will be lifted Thursday, October 11th.

Stage 1 restrictions mean; Visitors or residents within the Black Hills Forest Fire Protection District and the Black Hills National Forest can now build, maintain, attend, or use a campfire or stove fire within a developed recreation site or improved site. In addition smoking within an enclosed vehicle or building a developed recreation site or while stopped in an area at least 3 feet in diameter that is barren or clear of all flammable materials is now allowed.

Jim Strain, Chief Fire Management Officer, with the South Dakota Wildland Fire stated; "With the cooling temperatures and high humidity's we are experiencing our fire danger is starting to moderate", Jim continued on to say "although fuels are still dry and there is still potential to have wildland fires, we feel it is safe within designated campgrounds and permitted campfire rings, for visitors and residents to have a campfire."

Residents and visitors wishing to have campfires outside of the Black Hills Forest Fire Protection District are asked to contact local County Officials to see if burn bans are in place.

(Story courtesy of the U.S. Forest Service)