



News Release

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Kaibab National Forest Fourth of July safety message, dispersed camping guidelines

Fredonia, Ariz., June 28, 2015 – As the Fourth of July weekend approaches, the Forest Service reminds residents, campers and visitors that all types of fireworks are prohibited on Kaibab National Forest, including the “legal-fireworks” available in some retail stores.

Campers are also asked to ensure that all fires are extinguished and cold to the touch before leaving them, and to check local weather forecasts and the Kaibab National Forest website for any fire restrictions. Forest Service personnel realize that the campfire ambience is often a staple of the camping experience, but remind everyone to please keep safety in mind when having a campfire.

We are committed to visitors having a safe and pleasant visit to the Kaibab National Forest.

Please have a happy & safe Fourth of July celebration!

The following are examples of causes of wildfires in Arizona in years past:

- Driving on a flat tire, the rim and pavement caused sparks, setting off grass fires;
- A dragging safety chain from a boat trailer set off a series of fires;
- Vehicles with hot catalytic converters parking on dry vegetation;
- Ricocheting bullets have caused numerous wildfires at Arizona’s lower elevations;
- Signal fires set by lost or injured individuals have caused many wildfires;
- Weed-eaters, chainsaws, welders, and other internal combustion engines have caused numerous fires;
- Improperly maintained brakes and wheel bearings, especially in trailers, have triggered some fires;
- Discarded charcoal and glass are responsible for a number of fire starts;
- Campfires left unattended or not put out properly are an especially common cause of wildfires; and
- Fireworks purchased and used illegally, in and around the 4th of July, have caused acres of damage.

Fire Restriction information can change daily.

To get the most current **fire restriction updates**, please visit firerestrictions.us/AZ/.

To get the most current **fire activity updates** and maps 24-hours-a day, please visit or call:

Fire Information Line: 928-635-8311

Inciweb: inciweb.nwcg.gov/

Text Message: text ‘follow kaibabnf’ to 40404

THINK BEFORE YOU ACT!

It only takes one spark to start a wildfire. Chainsaws, dragging trailer safety chains, carelessly tossed cigarettes, fireworks, abandoned or unattended campfires, and discharge of firearms are all known causes of wildfire. Wildfires impact recreation areas, may destroy homes, and threaten lives. Fireworks and other pyrotechnic devices are prohibited on all national forest lands year-round, regardless of weather conditions or holidays. Anyone igniting fireworks or exploding targets on Forest Service lands could face fines of up to \$5,000, a prison term of up to one year, or both. Anyone who starts a wildfire can also be billed for the cost of fighting them.

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USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

AROUND THE CAMPFIRE

KAIBAB NATIONAL FOREST

YOUR DISPERSED CAMPING GUIDELINES

UPDATED JUNE 28, 2015

What is dispersed camping?



Can I have a campfire? You should always contact the local district office to ask if there are any fire restrictions in effect, or visit firerestrictions.us.

There are basically two types of camping in your National Forests: camping in a developed campground and dispersed camping.

Dispersed camping is the term used for camping anywhere in the National Forest outside of a developed campground. Dispersed camping is free and, therefore, there are no services such as trash removal and there are few, if any, facilities such as tables and fire pits.

There are extra responsibilities and skills that are necessary for dispersed camping. It is your responsibility to know these before you go camping. Camping rules and regulations are in place to make your experience a safe one and to protect natural and cultural resources so they remain unspoiled for other forest visitors.

What about dispersed camping with a motor vehicle? The rules for motorized vehicles vary on each National Forest, so be sure to check with the local district office for more information.

The rules applying to the use of motorized vehicles on the Kaibab National Forest have changed.

Driving off of designated roads is no longer allowed except in very specific circumstances.

Please refer to the free Motor Vehicle Use Maps for each district for details. In the case of motorized vehicle use for the purpose of dispersed camping, motorists can drive up to 30 feet from the side of all open road systems, unless otherwise posted. The Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) shows where it is legal to drive a motor vehicle on Kaibab National Forest. Download your MVUM [here](#).

Rules for dispersed camping:

1. Have fun! [Follow these tips](#) to have a safe, low impact, primitive camping experience & thank you for helping care for your National Forest.
2. If possible, use existing campsite to limit resource damage.
3. **Know before you go!** Be prepared. No amenities – such as water, trash cans or restrooms are provided.
4. Follow [Leave No Trace](#) principles & [Tread Lightly](#).
5. **Pack it in, pack it out!**
6. Camping is prohibited within 1 mile of a developed campground, administrative site or other developed recreation site such as [Spring Valley](#), [Big Springs](#) or [Hull cabins](#) and [Jacob Lake](#) or [DeMotte](#) campgrounds.
7. Camping within one-quarter of a mile of a watering hole is prohibited as it denies the wildlife and domestic livestock access to available water.
8. If fire restrictions are not in effect, please use existing fire rings if available. This minimizes scarring of new rocks, soil and plants.
9. Dead & down firewood may be collected and used for your campfire. Do not cut live trees.
10. Camping more than 14 days in any 30-day period is not authorized, per Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 261.10 (b).

Tips on treating your water!

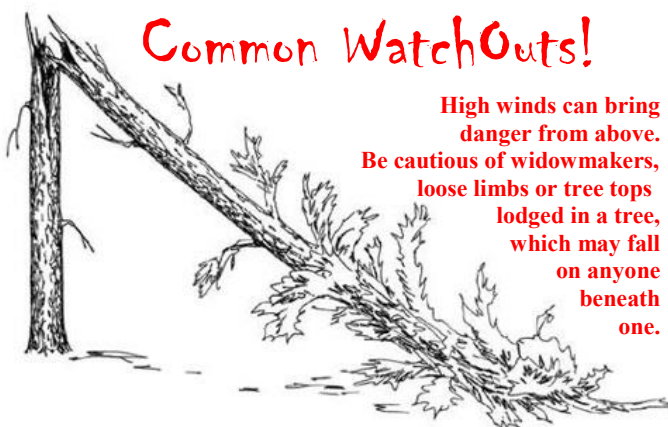
Back in the day, we used to be able to take a cup and drink directly out of the sparkling creek, a rushing waterfall, or a clear, deep lake. There is NO safe water source anymore.

With an increasing population and visitation to our National Forest, water sources have been contaminated with invisible micro-organisms that can make people very ill and in some cases could be deadly. Giardia is a common contamination that has been spread through improper toileting and wild animals to many water sources. It will cause diarrhea, cramping,

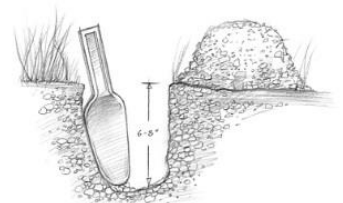
and other physical problems.

The only way to ensure that water from any undeveloped source is safe is to treat it. Follow the water treatment guidelines recommended by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) website. Water from faucets in developed recreation areas has been tested and treated and is safe to use without treating.

To learn more about United States land areas most important to surface drinking water visit the [USDA Forests to Faucets](#) website.



Stay out of piles! This is part of our **Fuels Reduction Program**. Taking wood from piles is unsafe and hampers the consumption rate when it comes time to burn them. There is plenty of wood available for everyone. Please keep piles off limits!



How to pee & poop in the woods ...

Dispersed camping means no bathrooms and no outhouses. Deposit solid human waste in catholes dug 6 to 8 inches deep at least 200 feet from water, camp and trails.

Cover and disguise the cathole when finished. Pack out toilet paper and hygiene products. For those with camp trailers, dispose of waste and grey water at dumping stations.

Disposing of waste water or material on National Forest System Land is against federal regulation per Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 261.11 (d).

