



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - **REVISED**

September 20, 2012

Industrial operations are restricted in Eastern Washington for people working in the woods

Restrictions affect portions of Spokane, Steven, Douglas, Chelan, Kittitas, Klickitat and Yakima and Ferry counties, and all of Lincoln county

OLYMPIA – The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced today that, in response to increased fire danger, the Industrial Fire Precaution Level (IFPL) levels for logging and industrial operations in the woods will be changed to avoid accidental fires.

Effective immediately all operations are prohibited, in accordance with IFPL Level 4 – general shutdown, for people working in the woods for the following areas ([map](#)):

- Douglas, Chelan, Kittitas, and Yakima counties (Zone 675).
- Chelan, Kittitas, and Yakima counties (Zone 680).
- Klickitat County (Zones 609E and 609W)

Effective September 21, at 12:01 a.m. the IFPL level will be changed to a Level 2, called Partial Hootowl, limiting most forest industrial activities to between 8 p.m. and 1 p.m. only ([map](#)):

- All of Lincoln County, most of Spokane County, and parts of Stevens and Ferry counties (Zone 686).
- Okanogan County outside the Colville Reservation (Zone 678W).

For those in Level 2, and using chainsaws in the forest, including cutting firewood, must follow certain rules:

- Chainsaws must have approved, working exhaust systems.
- A one-hour fire watch must follow the last use of a chainsaw.
- A fire extinguisher, containing at least eight ounces of retardant, must be in the immediate vicinity of where the chainsaw is being used.

- A shovel must be retrievable in two minutes or less.

The IFPL system

- Industrial Fire Precaution Level applies to all industrial operations that may cause a fire on or adjacent to lands protected from fire by DNR ([WAC 332-24-301](#)); this applies to logging and other industrial operations.
- The levels are established for each of 38 “shutdown zones” in the state on the basis of National Fire Danger Rating System data.
- There are four IFPL levels:
 - Level 1 (closed fire season): fire equipment and a fire watch is required
 - Level 2 (partial hoot owl): limits certain activities to between 8 p.m. and 1 p.m.; fire equipment and a fire watch is required
 - Level 3 (partial shutdown): prohibits some activities and limits others to between 8 p.m. and 1 p.m.; fire equipment and a fire watch is required
 - Level 4 (general shutdown): prohibits all activities

The same system is used by DNR, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Bureau of Indian Affairs. This provides consistency for workers operating on lands regulated by the different agencies. For specific information regarding components of the IFPL system, please visit [DNR's website](#).

Daily updates on burn restrictions are available at 1-800-323-BURN or on DNR's website at www.dnr.wa.gov; then click on 'fire information and prevention' and go to 'wildfire related maps.' The 'burn risk map' link is in the bottom, right-hand corner.

DNR burn ban still in effect in Washington

The Governor has issued a burn ban for all counties east of the crest of the Cascades until midnight, September 24, 2012. For both sides of the Cascades, DNR has issued a statewide burn ban on all DNR-protected lands; the ban is currently in effect through September 30, 2012, and includes all forestlands in Washington except for federal lands.

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