



## The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Navajo Nation issues fire safety warning during lockdown hours for Fourth of July weekend

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President, Navajo Forestry Department, Navajo Department of Health, and Navajo Nation Health Command Operations Center urge Navajo Nation residents and visitors to use extreme caution during the Fourth of July holiday weekend, to avoid the use of fireworks, and to comply with the 57-hour weekend lockdown.

On May 15, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Navajo Area BIA Regional Director Bart Stevens issued Stage 2 Fire Restrictions that prohibit fireworks, trashing burning, wood burning, camp fires, discharging a firearm except while engaged in a lawful hunt, use of chainsaws and welding torches with open flames. Fines may reach as high as \$5,000 for violations.

"Please help protect our lands, our communities, and our people by making smart decisions and not using fireworks or open fires, especially during the holiday weekend. The Navajo Nation is in a drought and we have plenty of dry brush, dry vegetation, and other fuel that can spread fire quickly. Our first responders have their hands full fighting the Wood Springs 2 Fire and COVID-19, so please think of them and their families. We strongly urge everyone to take precautionary measures to ensure that you, your loved ones, and neighbors will be safe," said President Nez.

The Navajo Nation has issued another Public Health Emergency Order that implements full 57-hour weekend lockdowns from July 3, 2020 to July 6, 2020 from July 10, 2020 to July 13, 2020, and from July 17, 2020 to July 20, 2020, starting at 8:00 P.M. (MDT) on Friday and ending at 5:00 A.M. (MDT) on Monday. The Navajo Police Department and the New Mexico National Guard will partner over the holiday weekend to setup checkpoints to enforce the weekend lockdown.

"The majority of our Navajo people are doing a good job staying home, wearing masks, social distancing, and washing their hands often and it is resulting in the downward trend in new cases, but the fight is not over. During the Fourth of July weekend, please stay home with your loved ones and please do not use fireworks. Keep fighting COVID-19 and keep our homelands safe from fires," stated Vice President Myron Lizer.

The Navajo Nation is experiencing the driest part of year during the COVID-19 pandemic. The wildfire caused by lightning three miles east of Wood Springs, Arizona was reported by the Bureau

of Indian Affairs, BIA Fire and Aviation Management, Navajo Region on June 27. Navajo Nation Law states that possessing, discharging, manufacturing, sale or use of fireworks or other pyrotechnic device is unlawful. All public exhibition shows such as firework shows require a permit that would be considered a “drive in” gathering under the public health emergency order, thus not permitted during lockdown hours.

For more information, contact the Navajo Forestry Department at (928) 729-4007. To report fires contact the Bureau of Indian Affairs Navajo Region Fire at (928) 729-2307. For more information about the 57-hour weekend lockdowns and daily curfews contact the Navajo Nation Health Command Operations Center at (928) 871-7014.

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# THE NAVAJO NATION

JONATHAN NEZ | PRESIDENT    MYRON LIZER | VICE PRESIDENT



## EXECUTIVE ORDER

### STAGE 2 FIRE RESTRICTION

**WHEREAS**, the President of the Navajo Nation serves as the Chief Executive Officer for the Executive Branch of the Navajo Nation government with the full authority to conduct, supervise, and coordinate personnel and program matters. 2 N.N.C. § 1005 (A).

**WHEREAS**, the President shall have the enumerated power of issuing Executive Orders for the purpose of interpreting, implementing or giving administrative effect to statutes of the Navajo Nation in the manner set forth in such statutes. 2 NNC § 1005 (C) (14)

**WHEREAS**, an Executive Order shall have the force of law upon the recipient. *Id.*

**WHEREAS**, the Navajo Forestry Department, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Navajo Region, Branch of Wildland Fire and Aviation are recommending that this Fire Restriction be put in place in preparation of an active fire season due to the dangerous combination of inadequate precipitation, abundant dry fuels, high winds, high temperatures and low humidity.

**WHEREAS**, to protect the public and to mitigate and keep our firefighters safe from potential COVID-19 transmission in the course of the work responding to wildland fires.

**WHEREAS**, to reduce the risks of wildland fires, and to protect infrastructure and natural resources, the Navajo Nation is requesting that the public exercise extreme caution on Navajo lands and surrounding areas.

**THEREFORE**, I, **JONATHAN NEZ**, President of the Navajo Nation, and I, **MYRON LIZER**, Vice President of the Navajo Nation, and I, **BARTHOLOMEW STEVENS**, Navajo Regional Director for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, **HEREBY ORDER of STAGE 2 FIRE RESTRICTIONS** on the Navajo Nation, effective this day, May 15, 2020. The **ORDER OF STAGE 2 FIRE RESTRICTIONS** shall remain in effect until this order is rescinded.

The following uses within the Navajo Nation are **PROHIBITED**:

1. Possession, manufacturing, sale or use of **FIREWORKS** or other pyrotechnic devices pursuant to 17 N.N.C. 2733.
2. All debris (trash) and field-clearing burning;

3. All wood-burning, charcoal fires, campfires, warming fires, and charcoal barbecues;
4. Discharging a firearm except while engaged in a lawful hunt pursuant to State, Federal, or tribal laws and regulation.
5. Mechanical and Industrial Prohibitions:
  - a The use and operation of chainsaws or any other internal combustion engines between the hours of 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.
  - b Welding or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame.

The following uses must use EXTREME CAUTION:

1. Smoking, which is recommended only in permitted areas, within an enclosed vehicle, traditional and ceremonial uses.

The following uses are PERMITTED:

1. Only propane, gas or other petroleum-fueled stoves will be allowed for livestock branding. Such devices may only be used in an area that is barren or cleared of all overhead and surrounding flammable materials within 3 feet of the device.
2. Ceremonial fires, properly registered and permitted by the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency (NNEPA) through a Navajo Nation EPA Burn Registration, five (5) days prior to ceremony. To obtain a Burn Registration, please contact Navajo Nation EPA Air Quality at (928) 729-4156. Mail: NN Air Quality, PO Box 529, Fort Defiance, AZ 86504, FAX: (928) 729-4323 or email: aizzo@navajonnsn.gov.
3. Public firework displays approved and permitted, pursuant to 17 NNC 2735, by the Navajo Nation Fire Department.
4. Persons with a valid written permit/bonding/license that specifically authorizes the otherwise prohibited act.
5. Persons conducting activities in those designated areas where the activity is specifically authorized by written posted notice.
6. Any Federal, State, or local officer or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.
7. The implementation of Low Complexity Prescribed Fire which meet prescriptions approved by the Agency Administrator under an approved Burn Plan.

The Division of Public Safety, Division of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Agency, Division of Community Development and the Bureau of Indian Affairs Wildland Fire and Aviation are hereby directed to fully enforce this Executive Order.

**Any person or parties found guilty of violating any provision of this EXECUTIVE ORDER of STAGE 2 FIRE RESTRICTION will be fined up to \$5,000.**

Report any wildland fire to the B.I.A. Fire Dispatch at (928) 729-2307. Questions regarding this Order may be directed to the Navajo Forestry Department at (928) 729-4007.



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Jonathan Nez, President  
**THE NAVAJO NATION**

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Myron Lizer, Vice President  
**THE NAVAJO NATION**

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Bartholomew Stevens, Navajo Regional Director  
**BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS**