



The Navajo Nation  
Office of the President and Vice President

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 17, 2021

## Navajo Nation implements Stage 1 Fire Restrictions

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer finalized an executive order on Monday, implementing Stage 1 Fire Restrictions that outline prohibitions to help protect against more wildfires. The Navajo Nation has already experienced several fires this year that have threatened homes, farms, wildlife, and other areas. The public is encouraged to report any wildfires to the BIA Fire Dispatch at (928) 729-2307.

“Everyone has a responsibility to use extreme caution and to abide by the fire restrictions that are now in place to protect our lands and communities and to help prevent the loss of wildlife and human life. The Navajo Nation has already had several wildfires in recent weeks that could’ve caused much more damage if it weren’t for the quick and collaborative response of our first responders from various agencies. Please take the time to read the Stage 1 fire restrictions, let your family members and friends know, and continue to be very cautious,” said President Nez.

Executive Order No. 005-2021 states that the following are prohibited across the Navajo Nation:

- A. Possession, manufacturing, sale or use of fireworks or other pyrotechnic device pursuant to 17 N.N.C. § 2733
- B. Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire, charcoal, coal; except campfires and charcoal to be used in developed sites where fire rings or grills are provided
- C. Using a firearm and incendiary devices, without a valid permit

The following activities must use extreme caution:

- A. Smoking, which is recommended only in permitted areas, within an enclosed vehicle, traditional and ceremonial uses, and while stopped in an area at least six feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials.

The following activities are permitted:

- A. Propane, gas or other petroleum-fueled stoves will be allowed for livestock branding
- B. 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 the ceremony. To obtain a Burn Registration, please contact Navajo Nation EPA Air Quality at (928) 729-4246. Mail: NN Air Quality, PO Box 529, Fort Defiance, Arizona 86504, Fax (928) 729-4323 or email [kaelynmorgan@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:kaelynmorgan@navajo-nsn.gov)

- C. Persons with a written permit/bonding/license that specifically authorizes the otherwise prohibited act.
- D. Persons conducting activities in those designated areas where the activity is specifically authorized by written posted notice.
- E. Any federal, state, or local officer or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.
- F. The implementation of low complexity prescribed fire which meets prescriptions approved by the Agency Administrator under an approved Burn Plan.

“Be responsible, take precautions, and plan ahead. Another cause of fire stems from people who burn household trash out in the open. Burning trash in the open is a very dangerous practice and can easily lead to a huge fire. We want our people to enjoy the outdoors, but we all have a role in protecting our lands and preventing wildfires. Please be safe and adhere to the fire restrictions,” said Vice President Lizer.

Executive Order No. 005-2021 is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until this order is rescinded or amended. Any person or parties found guilty of violating the fire restrictions may be fined up to \$5,000 or provide restitution.

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**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 005-2021**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER RELATED TO  
STAGE 1 FIRE RESTRICTIONS  
FOR THE NAVAJO NATION**

**NAVAJO NATION OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT  
May 14, 2021**

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**WHEREAS:**

1. 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).
2. The President shall have the power to issue an executive order 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.N.N.C. §1005 (C)(14);
3. The President may order any area of Navajo Nation land closed to entry by the general public due the danger of fire, 17 N.N.C. § 2701;
4. There have been a number of fires across the Navajo Nation this season having caused damage to our natural resources and in preparation for high fire danger due to a combination of inadequate precipitation, high wind conditions, high temperatures, and low humidity, this Fire Restriction is being imposed;
5. To protect the public, natural resources, and reduce the risks of wildland fires, the Navajo Nation is requesting the public to exercise extreme caution on Navajo lands and surrounding areas; and,
6. An Executive Order shall have the force of law upon the recipient. 2 N.N.C. § 1005(C)(14).

**THEREFORE:**

I, **JONATHAN NEZ**, President of the Navajo Nation, and I, **MYRON LIZER**, Vice President of the Navajo Nation, by the authority vested in us, hereby issue the following order:

1. The Stage 1 Fire Restrictions on the Navajo Nation are effective immediately and shall remain in effect until this order is rescinded or amended.

2. The following uses within the Navajo Nation are PROHIBITED:
  - A. Possession, manufacturing, sale or use of fireworks or other pyrotechnic device pursuant to 17 N.N.C. § 2733;
  - B. Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire, charcoal, coal; except campfires and charcoal to be used in developed sites where fire rings or grills are provided; and
  - C. Using a firearm and incendiary devices, without a valid permit.
3. The following activities must use EXTREME CAUTION:

Smoking, which is recommended only in permitted areas, within an enclosed vehicle, traditional and ceremonial uses, and while stopped in an area at least six feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials.
4. The following activities are PERMITTED:
  - A. Propane, gas or other petroleum-fueled stoves will be allowed for livestock branding;
  - B. 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) 729-4246. Mail: NN Air Quality, PO Box 529, Fort Defiance, AZ 86504, FAX: (928) 729-4323 or email: [kaelynnmorgan@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:kaelynnmorgan@navajo-nsn.gov);
  - C. Persons with a written permit/bonding/license that specifically authorizes the otherwise prohibited act;
  - D. Persons conducting activities in those designated areas where the activity is specifically authorized by written posted notice;
  - E. Any Federal, State, or local officer or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty; and
  - F. The implementation of Low Complexity Prescribed Fire which meet prescriptions approved by the Agency Administrator under an approved Burn Plan.
5. Any person or parties found guilty of violating the fire restrictions may be fined up to \$5,000 or provide restitution. 17 N.N.C. § 523
6. 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.

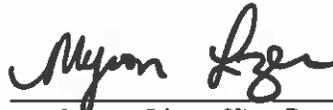
7. Report any wildland fires to the B.I.A. Fire Dispatch at (928) 729-2307. Should there be any questions pertaining to this Order, please contact the Navajo Forestry Department at (928) 729-4007.

The provisions of this order shall be implemented consistent with the laws of the Navajo Nation and in a manner that advances the highest welfare of the People.

EXECUTED this 14<sup>th</sup> day of May 2021



Jonathan Nez, *President*  
THE NAVAJO NATION



Myron Lizer, *Vice-President*  
THE NAVAJO NATION

ATTEST:



Doreen N. McPaul, *Attorney General*  
Navajo Nation Department of Justice

CONCURRENCE:



Francis Holiday, *Acting Navajo Regional Director*  
Bureau of Indian Affairs