

Stage 1 Fire Restrictions Re-Implemented in Ridgway, Alongside Voluntary Water Restrictions

Ridgway, CO – At the August 12th meeting of the Ridgway Town Council, the Town Council voted to reenter into “Stage 1” fire restrictions. The restrictions shall remain in effect until modified or revoked by further order of the Town Council. The Town Council based their decision on the amount of current fire activity around the state, predicted weather, and current moisture levels. They also cited a recent call with regional fire managers where the discussion pointed to the possibility of reentering into Stage 1 fire restrictions as soon as next week. The following activities are currently prohibited in the Town of Ridgway:

- Building, maintaining, attending or using a campfire except in designated and signed campgrounds or developed recreation sites with provided fire grates
- Open burning of any kind including burning of trash or debris, burning of ditches, open charcoal or wood fires
- Fireworks or the use of explosives
- Smoking, except in an enclosed vehicle or building
- Disposal of any cigarette anywhere outdoors
- Operating any chainsaw, except with a fire extinguisher and shovel kept within immediate reach
- Welding or use of torch with open flame, unless inside an enclosed structure and as an allowable use in the zoning district

The Town Council also ratified the implementation of Voluntary Water Restrictions in the Town of Ridgway. According to the U.S. Drought Portal, accessible at www.drought.gov, areas in southwestern Colorado, and particularly Ouray County, are experiencing either severe or extreme drought conditions. The Town Council has continually expressed a desire to conserve water in times of need to ensure effective and safe delivery of water to the Ridgway community during all times, including in times of restricted or limited water supply and drought. The following Voluntary Water Restrictions shall remain in effect until modified or revoked by further order of the Town Council:

- No irrigating between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., or when windy, in order to minimize evaporation.
- Properties located on the SOUTH side of Hwy 62 and Hunter Parkway – irrigate only on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.
- Properties located on the NORTH side of Hwy 62 and Hunter Parkway – irrigate only on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

Please note that these voluntary restrictions do not apply to drip systems and use of hand-watering containers.

For more information, please email pneill@town.ridgway.co.us or call 970-626-5308.

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