

# NEW MEXICO Fire Information

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## New Mexicans Doing Well Preventing Human-Caused Fires

Santa Fe, NM - Compared to other years, and compared to neighboring states, New Mexico has had a significantly small number of human-caused fire starts in May and June.

“The people of New Mexico are to be commended for the low incidence of human-caused fires,” says Hector Madrid, BLM State Fire Management Officer. “We can put restrictions in place to protect our recreational area, but it takes concerned people to follow them.” Less human-caused starts keeps firefighting resources available to deal with lightning-cause fires.

At the same time, according to Dan Ware, Public Relations Coordinator for New Mexico State Forestry, the state is just beginning what is, historically, the worst fire month – June. “It’s important that people not become complacent,” Ware stresses, “and that they continue to follow restrictions and use extreme care when they visit our recreational areas.” Over the last 10 years, New Mexico has averaged 400 new starts in June.

Not all fires that are caused by lightning or careless humans. When the right conditions present an opportunity, prescribed fires are used as a management tool that allows fire to play a role in forest and grassland health. The use of prescribed fire, as well as lightning caused fire-use fires, is more important than ever as the threat to property increases and the evidence of the ecological importance of natural fire becomes more established.

Federal and state agencies have a responsibility to continue their management role year-round, which means prescribed and fire-use events in the summer as well. When the conditions are correct and specific management objectives can be met by these kinds of fires, forest managers have opportunities to accomplish resource management goals by hosting and managing some naturally-ignited fires. However, human safety is always the first consideration whether fighting fires or using fire to restore a natural process.

For All New Mexico Fire & Restriction information:

[www.nmfireinfo.com](http://www.nmfireinfo.com)  
or 1-877-864-6985

Fire conditions as well as localized closures and restrictions are subject to change. Because tribal, federal, state, and local mandates vary, there may be some differences in their restrictions. For a more detailed explanation of restrictions, please contact the nearest land management agency office where you plan to work or play, or visit websites [www.nmfireinfo.com](http://www.nmfireinfo.com), or <http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/>, or call toll free 1-877-864-6985.

