

Wildfire Safety

Fire and Travel Restrictions



During the wildfire season there may be times when high to extreme fire danger conditions require the Manitoba government to implement fire and travel restrictions within the province. These restrictions are issued to protect you, your property and your community.

What are fire restrictions?

Fire restrictions are limits placed on any activity that has the potential to cause a wildfire under the current or forecasted fire danger conditions. These activities could include back country travel, industrial operations, agricultural burning, fireworks, outdoor fires, and campfires. Restrictions can be as simple as limiting the activity to a certain time of day or, at the highest level, a complete ban of all such activities in the affected area.

What are travel restrictions?

Travel restrictions are limits placed on the accessibility of an area by motorized vehicle (land, water, or air) and pedestrian traffic. As the fire danger increases, travel permits may be required for access into previously open areas, and/or access may be permitted only to designated and developed areas. The highest level of travel restriction is a travel ban which is the closure of all access to the affected area.

Why are restrictions implemented?

Fire and travel restrictions are used to protect the public, property, and our natural resources. They are implemented to reduce the risk of human-caused wildfires by limiting certain activities that have the potential to start a fire in areas experiencing high to extreme fire danger.

When do restrictions occur?

Under *The Wildfires Act*, travel and fire restrictions may be issued during the wildfire season (April 1st to November 15th) as a result of the current wildfire situation including: dry conditions, the number of wildfires currently burning, the availability of fire fighting resources, or an increased risk of new wildfires.

Where could restrictions occur?

The province may implement restrictions anywhere within Manitoba. Rural municipalities (RMs) may impose their own restrictions. Always check for restrictions with your local RM office.

How will I know when there is a restriction in place?

Notice of restrictions are issued via media outlets, posted signs, and department offices. Information detailing the restrictions and corresponding maps may be viewed at www.manitoba.ca. It is your responsibility to check conditions and restrictions before heading out for your activity.

What could happen if I don't comply with a restriction?

You may be arrested and liable for fines; up to \$10,000 for individuals and \$50,000 for corporations, if found guilty of an offence. An individual found responsible for causing a fire may be liable for all suppression and property damage costs.

How will restrictions affect my current burning permit?

Existing burning permits may be cancelled and fires currently burning under a burning permit may have to be extinguished. Check with your local district office and RM office before starting any outdoor fire. Extreme conditions may require additional restrictions on campfires. Burning Permits are required April 1 to November 15.

When will restrictions be lifted?

Restrictions remain in place until the fire danger level has improved, taking into consideration such things as current and forecasted weather, the number of fires burning, the risk of new lightning caused wildfires, public safety, etc. *Rain doesn't necessarily mean restrictions will be lifted.*

What else should I know?

Be aware of current and forecasted weather conditions. Wildfires are more likely to occur when:

- it has been hot and dry for days and it looks like this trend is going to continue
- winds are strong and gusting
- a thunderstorm is approaching (lightning and unpredictable winds)
- the temperature is high (> 20° C) and the humidity is low (< 40%)

Please make note of the following when reporting a wildfire:

- the location and size of the fire
- time fire was first noticed
- colour and amount of smoke
- direction fire is spreading
- access to fire
- if people are in the area

Fire Danger Rating System

EXTREME:

Conditions are extremely dry and the risk of wildfires is severe. Fires will start very easily and spread very vigorously.

HIGH:

Conditions are very dry and the risk of wildfires is serious. Fires will start easily and spread rapidly.

MODERATE:

Conditions are dry and there is an increased risk of fires starting, especially in dry grass or leaves.

LOW:

Wildfires are unlikely. Conditions are safest for outdoor activities.

For more information:

Contact your local District Office

Call the Public Information line at
1-800-214-6497

Visit www.manitoba.ca/conservation/fire

**Report Wildfires:
1-800-782-0076**