New Fire Restrictions On BLM-Managed Land

High fire danger has the Mother Lode Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) increasing fire restrictions and temporary target shooting limitations. The new rules began today and apply to all BLM-managed public lands in the Sierra Nevada foothills, including Amador and Calaveras counties. These seasonal restrictions are in addition to the year-round statewide fire prevention order that was issued on April 28. Noting that this has already been an active wildland fire year, the BLM says the additional fire restriction prohibits campfires, barbeques, or open flame of any kind, even in developed campground areas. Those in violation of the order can face up to a $100,000 fine and could be incarcerated for up to a year. These new set of restrictions include, and will remain in place until the fire danger subsides; No target shooting…No motorized vehicles off BLM designated roads or trails…No tools powered by internal combustion engines…No smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, or at a developed recreation site…No welding or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame...and No explosives. Bureau officials also remind visitors not to park along highways or county roads, as that can block emergency vehicle access and delay life-saving services.

