

Conserve Southwest Utah's Wildfire Prevention Toolkit



1. Know and Abide by Current Fire Restrictions

a. Active Fire Restrictions in Southwest Utah

[Active Fire Restriction Documents \(utahfireinfo.gov\)](http://utahfireinfo.gov)

b. Firework Restrictions

Could one responsible adult have prevented the 12,000-acre Turkey Farm Road Fire? What if someone had shared knowledge about current fireworks restrictions and fire risk with the 3 teenagers who started this fire? Fireworks are *never* allowed on public lands. Consider having conversations with firework enthusiasts in your family and neighborhood. Make sure they know where they can legally set off fireworks in Washington County.

Firework restrictions vary from city to city. Please familiarize yourself with restrictions in the place where you live.

- Hurricane – Fireworks can only be discharged in Spilsbury Park Ballfields, American Legion Ballfield, Three Falls Park and Dixie Springs Park.
- Ivins
[Welcome to the City of Ivins!](#) (Look for 2022 Fireworks Restrictions Map on homepage below banner)
- LaVerkin, 435-635-2581
- Leeds, 435-879-2447 or 435-635-9562
- Santa Clara
[Fireworks Information – Santa Clara City \(sccity.org\)](http://sccity.org)
- Springdale
[121 \(springdaletown.com\)](http://springdaletown.com), pg. 3
- St. George City
[St. George \(sgcity.org\)](http://sgcity.org)
[Fireworks Restrictions \(sgcity.org\)](http://sgcity.org)

- Washington City
[Firework Restriction Zone Map](#)

2. Report Wildfires

- Learn about active wildfires here:
 - [Active Wildfires and Projects \(utahfireinfo.gov\)](#)
 - [Utah Fire Info \(@UtahWildfire\) / Twitter](#)
- Be observant. Report any lightning strikes that have started a fire and any smoke plumes.
- Report any accidents, chain dragging or other vehicle-related situations that have started fires on I-15, SR-18, or other roads.
- If you're traveling on roads anywhere across public lands and observe illegal firework activity, pallet burning, campfires, vehicle accidents, target shooting, or anything that could start a fire, report those activities immediately to 911.
- Provide enough detail in your report to assist Law Enforcement. Descriptions of vehicles, the individuals involved, license plate numbers, and cellphone photographs (if they can be taken without jeopardizing your safety) are all helpful.

3. Important Contacts

- Reporting Illegal Campfires on Public Lands**
Washington County Sherriff's Office (non-emergency line) 435-634-5730
or 9-1-1
- Tiffany Martineau, Washington County Community Wildfire Planner**
tiffany.martineau@washco.utah.gov
435-634-5734
- Nick Howell, BLM Fire Mitigation & Education Specialist**
nhowell@blm.gov

4. Share What You Learn About Wildfire Prevention

- Tap Into Your Communications Networks**
 - HOA newsletters
 - Community and neighborhood boards
 - Apps like Nextdoor
 - Facebook, Instagram, Twitter
 - Email groups
 - Never underestimate the power of in-the-moment, one-on-one conversations
- Amplify Wildfire Safety Messaging on Key Topics**

Sharing current fire restrictions and tips for reporting fires is crucial (Toolkit Sections 1 and 2).

Educating people about the common causes of human-caused wildfires could help prevent them. This text is available for your use:





- *Roadside/Vehicle-related Fires*

The number of roadside wildfires is staggering. Just [look at the I-15 corridor](#) on the Utah Wildfire Dashboard. The good news is that these fires can be easily prevented! Make sure your tires are in good condition and properly-inflated; prevent tow chains from dragging on the ground and shooting out sparks; be alert and focused while driving to prevent fiery crashes; use a cup-holder cigarette receptacle to dispose of cigarette butts in the car; and never park on dry grass.

- *Campfires*

Most of Southwest Utah is currently under Stage 1 Fire Restrictions. This means you can have a fire *only* within established public facilities in improved campgrounds, picnic areas, or in permanently constructed fire pits at private homes where running water is present. Fire rings or deep fire pits on public lands are not an option right now! Under Stage 2 Restrictions, no open fires of any kind are allowed on public lands.

- *Fireworks*

Illegal use of fireworks in the Red Cliffs National Conservation Area caused the massive 12,000-acre Turkey Farm Road Fire in 2020. Did you know that fireworks are *never* allowed on public lands? Additionally, it is illegal to discharge fireworks *anywhere* in the state of Utah before July 2nd. Rules around firework vary from city to city in Washington County, so be sure to check the restrictions in your city before purchasing fireworks. Depending on where you live, it may be illegal to discharge fireworks in your backyard or street.

- *Target Shooting*

Target shooting next to the Red Cliffs National Conservation Area caused the 800-acre Snow Canyon Fire in 2020. Across many public lands, target shooting is not allowed. Tracer ammunition and exploding targets are not allowed at all on public lands during Stage 1 Restrictions. Be fire wise and target shoot only in designated shooting ranges.

- *Smoking*

On public lands, you can smoke a cigarette in an enclosed vehicle, trailer or building, at a developed recreation site or while stopped in an area that is paved. Please don't toss your butts or smoke in areas where dry vegetation is present. It's just too risky!

- *Big Picture Wildfire Prevention*

70% of Utah fires are preventable! Be fire wise this summer to protect your loved ones, home, public lands, and to save a buck! Wildfire suppression is incredibly expensive. NOAA reported over \$79.8 billion in costs associated with the occurrence of wildfires in the U.S. between 2018 and 2021.



5. Get Involved

a. Learn About Community Wildfire Preparedness Plans (CWPP) in Your Area

[Community Fire Planning | Utah DNR – FFSL \(Forestry, Fire and State Lands\)](#)

[Wildfire Community Preparedness | Utah DNR – FFSL \(Forestry, Fire and State Lands\)](#)

There are currently 11 communities in southwest Utah with Community Wildfire Planners. [See the list here.](#)

b. Join a Community Fire Council

Community Fire Councils are a State-led effort, and may or may not be established in your community yet. To learn more, contact Washington County Wildfire Planner Tiffany Martineau at (435) 634-5734.

c. Use Your Voice

- Contact your City Council to encourage the creation of a Community Fire Council.
- Encourage stronger restrictions for fireworks in your city.
- Be the “squeaky wheel”, calling for vegetation maintenance on private land and pushing for clean-ups of empty lots to prevent fire.

d. Help Heal Wildfire Damage by Becoming a Habitat Restoration Volunteer



Since 2020, Conserve Southwest Utah volunteers have helped the Bureau of Land Management plant more than 5,000 native shrubs and wildflowers in habitat restoration plots in the Red Cliffs and Beaver Dam Wash National Conservation Areas. Our volunteers plant, water, weed, build cages to protect plants, rake seed, and help with survivorship counts. We’re committed to healing land devastated by wildfires by creating “fertile islands” that will seed and spread to other areas, providing food, shelter and beauty in the future.

- Visit the [CSU Event Calendar](#) to see upcoming opportunities.
- Email sarah@conserveSWU.org with questions or to RSVP!

6. Protect Your Home

a. Predict Wildfire Risk at Your Home

[Risk Factor Tool](#), First Street Foundation

b. Schedule a Defensible Space (Wildfire Home Safety) Presentation

Contact BLM Fire Mitigation & Education Specialist Nick Howell at nhowell@blm.gov

c. Prepare Your Home for Wildfire and Review the Firewise Home Ignition Zone Checklist

[NFPA - Preparing homes for wildfire](#)

d. Firewise Plants for Utah

[Firewise Landscaping for Utah](#) by Utah State University Cooperative Extension.

7. Wildfire Resources

a. Articles

- [Here are the Wildfire Risks to Homes Across the Lower 48 States](#), New York Times. Featuring Washington County and Dammeron Valley.
- [One-of-a-kind wildfire predictor shows threats to your property from now to 2052](#), St. George News.

b. Reports

- [The 5th National Climate Risk Assessment: Fueling the Flames](#), First Street Foundation

c. Utah Wildfire Prevention Campaigns

- [Fire Sense \(utahfiresense.org\)](http://utahfiresense.org)

See *Fire Sense* videos on gas pumps and wildfire safety materials on firewood bundles at Maverik Gas Stations.

d. Video

- [We Thought We Were Being Careful With Fireworks](#), YouTube video of the teenagers who started the Turkey Farm Road Fire.
- [Recording of Conserve Southwest Utah's Wildfire Prevention Workshop](#) on YouTube.

