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(S.D.)-New Website Allows Visitors To See Fire Restrictions

By: Chris Fankhauser Posted at: 05/08/2013 08:41 AM

(Custer)-Are open campfires allowed in the Black Hills? That is a question many visitors to the Black Hills area ask. Local, State, and Federal agencies have now combined fire restriction information on one website. The site shows fire restrictions that are in place in counties, national parks, and national forests in the Black Hills Area and also includes parts of Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

The site, www.BlackHillsFireRestrictions.com, contains a link to Firewise with information available on how to protect and reduce the risk of losing your home from a wildfire. Links to current fire information, as well as links to individual organization sites are posted.

As a reminder, open fire is not allowed within the [Black Hills Fire Protection District](#), except in established metal fire rings or grills that are in designated sites within a developed campground, recreation area, or picnic ground. Charcoal grills, stoves, lanterns, or heating devices may be used, provided such devices meet safety specifications.

Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force that is performing official duty is exempt from the open fire prohibition.

Violations of this prohibition can result in a fine up to \$5,000.00 for an individual, or \$10,000.00 for an organization, or imprisonment for up to six months, or both.

Campfires are allowed in undeveloped areas in the Wyoming portion of the Black Hills. Before building a campfire, please clear all nearby vegetation and establish a campfire ring. In developed campgrounds, campfires are only allowed in designated fire grates. Officials remind everyone to be extra cautious with campfires to prevent wildfires. During periods of extreme wildfire conditions, fire restrictions may be put in place restricting the use of open fire.

Burning or open fire permits may be obtained online at <http://apps.sd.gov/applications/ag73burnpermit/login.aspx> or by phone at [\(800\) 275-4955](tel:8002754955), Monday – Friday, 8am to 4:30pm from the State of South Dakota. Check with your local fire authorities for more details.

(Story courtesy of the Forest Service)