**Fire Watch Services**

Why is a fire watch required on each operation during fire season? The purpose of the fire watch is to stay after the day’s work is over and report any fire starts to the proper authorities. The fire watch is required on duty after the last power-driven equipment used by the operator has been shut down for the day. The fire watch must be on duty a minimum of one hour. During periods of high fire danger, DNR recommends the fire watch be on the operation site longer than the mandated one hour.

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A fire watch must:
- Visually observe all parts of the operation on which industrial activity has been in progress.
- Be physically capable of fighting a fire and have experience in operating fire-fighting equipment.
- Possess on-site communications (CB radio, cellular or radio phone) to summon extra help if a fire breaks out. Transmission is also required if radio or phone communication doesn’t work.
- Be able to report a fire to the responsible protection agency within 15 minutes of detection.

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**Public Use Restrictions**

DNR administers Public Use Restrictions, which limit activities on forestland during periods of high fire danger.

- **Summer Fire Rules:** From April 15 to October 15, or later if the fire danger warrants it, the following restrictions are activated:
  1. **Cigarette smoking** on forestland is only allowed on roads, cleared landings, gravel pits, or similar cleared areas.
  2. **Fireworks** may not be lit on forestland.
  3. **Chain saw use in non-industrial work must follow IFPL requirements.**

**Fire Watch**

- **Fire Watch**
- **Fire Watch**
- **Fire Watch**

**Other Operations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Precaution Level</th>
<th>Precaution Level</th>
<th>Precaution Level</th>
<th>Precaution Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tractor/ Skidder</td>
<td>Tractor/ Skidder</td>
<td>Tractor/ Skidder</td>
<td>Tractor/ Skidder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cable (gravity systems)</td>
<td>Cable (gravity systems)</td>
<td>Cable (gravity systems)</td>
<td>Cable (gravity systems)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cable (other systems)</td>
<td>Cable (other systems)</td>
<td>Cable (other systems)</td>
<td>Cable (other systems)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Safety Precautions**

- **Safety Precautions**
- **Safety Precautions**
- **Safety Precautions**

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**Industrial Fire Precaution Levels (IFPL)**

**How does it work?**

By law, the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) uses two closure systems to reduce wildfire risk on 12.7 million acres of private and state forestland protected by the agency.

Activated when needed during the summer fire season, one closure system applies to woods workers and other industrial forest users. The other set of protections is aimed at the general public, but also includes local residents, landowners, recreationists and forest workers.

Wood workers are required to observe both sets of restrictions as fire danger dictates. Other land users only need to follow the public use restrictions.

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**Industrial Precautions**

**Level I**
- Fire equipment and fire watch service is required.

**Level II**
- Limits certain activities to between 8 p.m. and 1 p.m.

**Level III**
- Prohibits some activities and limits others to between 8 p.m. and 1 p.m.

**Level IV**
- All operations are prohibited.

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**What You Need to Know**

**WHEN USING SPARK-EMITTING EQUIPMENT ON FORESTLAND**

**Industrial Fire Precaution Level in effect for your area, call the Department of Natural Resources at (800) 323-BURN or visit our website at www.dnr.wa.gov.
Can I continue to work during an IFPL shutdown?

Operators who wish to continue an activity that is prohibited under an industrial fire precaution level must obtain a written waiver from DNR. The operator must also obtain the landowner’s permission to seek a waiver. DNR will not issue a waiver against the wishes of the landowner.

The operation must also be in compliance with all of Washington’s fire protection laws and with general “fire-safe” practices.

A fire-safe operation is one where the chance of a fire has been reduced, or where a plan is made for early discovery and suppression, if a fire ignites.

Examples of fire prevention measures include:

- wetting or removing slash fuel in the immediate operating area
- night operations, and
- ceasing activities when the relative humidity is less than 35 percent or during windy conditions

Increased fire detection and suppression measures may include:

- pre-strung hose to the yarding or cutting area
- a fire watch
- a roving patrol during the waiver period, as well as after working hours
- an additional water supply or firefighting tools

Each operation is unique and must be evaluated relative to conditions existing at that site. An activity in an alder stand on a north-facing slope would require few preventive or suppression measures to continue to operate during a shutdown. However, the same activity in a conifer stand on a south-facing slope would require more stringent prevention and increased suppression steps.

Fire Safety Checklist for Spark-Emitting Equipment on Forestland

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Equipment or location</th>
<th>WAC reference*</th>
<th>Approved exhaust system</th>
<th>5 gallon backpack pump</th>
<th>Fire extinguisher</th>
<th>Shovel</th>
<th>Pulaski</th>
<th>Water supply</th>
<th>Clear flammable debris</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Landings</td>
<td>WAC 332-24-405(8)</td>
<td>✓ (two)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trucks or vehicles used for hauling</td>
<td>WAC 332-24-405(7)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Passenger vehicles</td>
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<td>✓</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power saws</td>
<td>WAC 332-24-405(4)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fixed position machines</td>
<td>WAC 332-24-405(1)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tractors and mobile machines</td>
<td>WAC 332-24-405(6)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tail/corner haulback blocks</td>
<td>WAC 332-24-405(13)</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cable yarding over 1,200 feet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Motorcycles/ATVs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other spark-emitting engines</td>
<td>WAC 332-24-405(5)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* WAC (Washington Administrative Code)