

# Industrial Fire Precaution Levels

<https://fortress.wa.gov/dnr/protection/ifpl>  
or call 1-800-323-BURN



**WILDFIRE**

## LEVEL 1 | CLOSED SEASON

Fire precaution requirements are in effect. A fire watch/security is required at this and all higher levels unless otherwise waived.

## LEVEL 2 | PARTIAL HOOTOWL

The following may operate only between the hours of 8 p.m. and 1 p.m. local time:

- Power saws except at loading sites;
- Cable yarding;
- Blasting;
- Welding or cutting of metal.

## LEVEL 3 | PARTIAL SHUTDOWN

The following are prohibited except as indicated:

- **Cable yarding**—except that gravity operated logging systems employing nonmotorized carriages or approved motorized carriages may operate between 8 p.m. and 1 p.m. when all block and moving lines, except for the line between the carriage and the chokers, are suspended ten feet above the ground;
- **Power saws**—except power saws may be used at loading sites and on tractor/skidder operations between the hours of 8 p.m. and 1 p.m. local time.

**In addition, the following are permitted to operate between the hours of 8 p.m. and 1 p.m. local time:**

- Tractor, skidder, feller-buncher, forwarder, or shovel logging operations where tractors, skidders, or other equipment with a blade capable of constructing fireline, are immediately available to quickly reach and effectively attack a fire start;
- Mechanized loading and hauling of any product or material;
- Blasting
- Welding or cutting of metal.

## LEVEL 4 | GENERAL SHUTDOWN

All operations are prohibited.

### NOTES

■ Where hauling involves transit through more than one shutdown/regulation use area, the precaution level at the woods loading site shall govern the level of haul restriction, unless otherwise prohibited by other than the industrial precaution level system. ■ A written waiver may be issued by the department for fire-safe activities in low-hazard areas. ■ Tethered logging equipment cannot be "immediately available" to attack a fire start due to its deployment methodology. Therefore, the exception under Level 3 for tractors, skidders, or other equipment with a blade does not apply to tethered equipment. ■ For operations requiring a pump truck/trailer or a portable water supply and toolkit, a 30 gallon or larger Mobile Fire Foam System or equivalent may be substituted.

**The following definitions shall apply to these industrial fire precaution levels:**

**Loading sites**—means a place where any product or material, including but not limited to logs, firewood, slash, soil, rock, poles, posts, etc., is placed in or upon a truck or other vehicle.

**Cable yarding systems**—means a yarding system employing cables and winches in a fixed position.

**Approved motorized carriages**—means a cable yarding system employing a

motorized carriage with two fire extinguishers, each with at least a 5 BC rating, mounted securely on opposite sides of the carriage, an emergency motor cutoff, and an approved exhaust system.

**Low hazard area**—means any area where the department has determined the combination of elements reduces the probability of fire starting and/or spreading.

**Closed season**—is that season of the year when a fire hazard exists as declared by the department or other responsible agency.

**BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE GUIDELINES FOR MOTORIZED CARRIAGES (FIRE PRECAUTION LEVEL III)**

1. Keep carriage clean of flammable material and debris
2. Utilize manufacturer recommended non-sparking clamping jaws for braking system
3. Perform daily maintenance checks to assure:
  - USDA Forest Service approved exhaust system is in compliance;
  - Fire extinguishers are securely mounted on opposite sides of the carriage and fully charged;
  - Emergency motor cutoff is in good working order;
  - Battery hold-downs are in good repair and positive terminal is insulated;
  - Electrical wiring and circuit breakers are in good working order, according to manufacturer specifications;
  - Non-sparking clamping jaws are in good working order.
4. For operations in western Washington (summit of the Cascade Mountains west), monitor relative humidity hourly. Shut down operation when relative humidity is less than 30%.

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