



Forest Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## Forest Service News Release

Carson National Forest  
208 Cruz Alta Rd., Taos, NM 87571

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

Media Contact: Zach Behrens  
575-758-6303

[zachary.behrens@usda.gov](mailto:zachary.behrens@usda.gov)

### Wildfire Preparedness is Year-Round: *Skip the fireworks to support firefighters*

**TAOS, NM** – June 30, 2022 – Fireworks are a popular Fourth of July tradition. Over the years, many of us have personally experienced close calls and disasters related to firework-ignited fires – a stray ember on a rooftop, burnt grass, smoldering casings and other potential ignition sources. With an early start to the 2022 wildfire season, The Carson National Forest and the [Fire Adapted New Mexico learning network \(FACNM\)](#), in cooperation with partners, urge you to forego the fireworks this Fourth of July to keep our communities safe. Continuing the “Wildfire Preparedness is Year-Round” campaign, our message for July is ***Skip the Fireworks to Support Firefighters***. With July 2 declared by the National Interagency Fire Center as the [First Annual National Wildland Firefighter Day](#), there has never been a better time to show your support.

While recent moisture has decreased fire danger, much of Northern New Mexico is still in long-term drought and fireworks put our communities at unnecessary risk. Keep our communities safe by following all federal, state and local laws prohibiting fireworks this Fourth of July. Fireworks are prohibited on all State and Federal lands. Many municipalities and counties have also banned the retail sale of fireworks due to extreme fire danger and a [recent executive order by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham](#).

Here are a few things you can do to make sure you are following federal, state and local laws prohibiting fireworks:

- Remember, fireworks are ALWAYS illegal on public lands. Still, be sure to [check for fire restrictions](#) and closures before you plan to visit public land to make sure your non-firework holiday plans are permitted.
- Remember, if you are staying in town, many municipalities have fire restrictions that are not listed in the link above. Be sure to check with your local fire department or government agency for restrictions before building a campfire or lighting fireworks.
- Leave the fireworks to the professionals. Check your local events calendar for a firework display that you can enjoy without contributing to wildfire risk in your area.

Although you may not be lighting off fireworks, your neighbors may have different plans. Enjoy your Independence Day celebration and rest easy by hardening your home to embers and flames.

- Don't lose your house to a spark gone astray. Clean your [gutters and roof](#) to prepare your home for wildfire season and the Fourth of July.
- Reduce the risk of ember ignition to your house by preparing the [five-foot zone](#) around your structure.
- Create defensible space in the [30-foot zone](#) around your house so that you have a fighting chance to save it in the event of a wildfire.

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The Carson is working with the [Cibola](#) and [Santa Fe](#) National Forests, [New Mexico Forestry Division](#), [Forest Stewards Guild](#), [Fire Adapted NM](#), [New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts](#), [Bureau of Indian Affairs](#), [National Park Service](#) and [Bureau of Land Management New Mexico State Office](#) to continue in 2022 a wildfire preparedness calendar and share the message across multiple platforms, including social media, webinars and community events. Bookmark the [wildfire preparedness webpage](#) to follow the campaign throughout the year.

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