



## **SUBJECT: Important Community Update: Fire Restrictions, Wildfire Safety, and Village Fire Department Deployments**

### **Community Wildfire Safety Update**

As wildfire activity continues to increase across Northern New Mexico and the Southwest, the Village of Taos Ski Valley would like to provide an important community update regarding current fire restrictions, public safety expectations, and the ongoing work of our Fire/EMS Department in supporting wildfire response efforts both locally and across the state.

### **Fire Restrictions and Community Responsibility**

With the implementation of **Stage II Fire Restrictions** by the Carson National Forest, restrictions are now in place prohibiting activities such as chainsaw use, welding, and other activities capable of igniting a fire on National Forest lands between **10:00 AM and 6:00 PM**.

While these restrictions apply specifically to National Forest lands, the Village strongly encourages all property owners, contractors, and anyone performing outdoor work within Village limits to exercise extreme caution when conducting any activity capable of creating sparks or ignition.

Any work involving chainsaws, cutting equipment, welding, grinding, or similar activities should be accompanied by appropriate fire suppression tools on site, including:

- Shovel
- Fire extinguisher
- Water source or bladder bag
- Immediate access to communication in the event of an emergency

Property owners are responsible for ensuring contractors working on their property understand and follow these expectations. Preventing human-caused fires remains one of the most important things we can do as a community during this period of elevated fire danger.

### **Tree Cutting Permit Reminder**

As an additional reminder, all individuals conducting tree cutting or tree removal work within Village limits are required to obtain a Tree Cutting Permit before work begins.

The Village now offers a simple digital permit application here:

<https://form.jotform.com/261834998496076>

This process allows the Village and first responders to know where active tree cutting operations are occurring so that, in the event of an accident, wildfire ignition, or other emergency, personnel can respond more quickly and effectively.



## Supporting Wildfire Response Across New Mexico

We are also incredibly proud of the outstanding work being done by the Village of Taos Ski Valley Fire Department as our personnel continue supporting wildfire suppression efforts throughout the region.

In recent weeks, our department has:

- Deployed an Ambulance and Rapid Extrication Module Support Team (REMS) supporting wildfire operations on the Santa Fe National Forest
- Deployed a Type 6 Wildland Engine supporting operations on the Beehive Fire within the Carson National Forest
- Provided mutual aid assistance during the Aspen Fire response efforts in El Salto

These deployments demonstrate the Village's commitment not only to protecting our own community, but also contributing highly trained personnel and resources to support neighboring communities and statewide wildfire response efforts when needed.

## Please Stay Vigilant

We ask all residents, contractors, visitors, and recreational users to remain vigilant, use extreme caution with any activity that could spark a fire, and immediately report any signs of smoke or wildfire activity.

Wildfire prevention is a shared responsibility, and protecting this community requires all of us working together.

Thank you for doing your part to help keep Taos Ski Valley safe.

# Village of Taos Ski Valley