





Gila River Fire Department

5002 N. Maricopa Road
P.O Box 5083
Chandler, Arizona 85226
(520) 796-5900 Fax (520) 796-5919

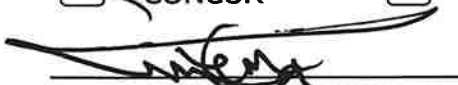
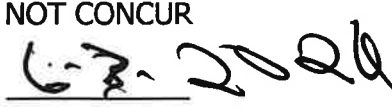
MEMO NO. FDA 26-121

TO: Stephen Roe Lewis, Governor
FROM: Kathy J Garcia, Fire Chief 
THROUGH: Suzanne Jones, Community Manager 
CC: Lisa Gover, Director DEQ
Leif Lake, Fire Management Officer
DATE: May 18, 2026
SUBJECT: Open Burning Permit Restrictions and Moratorium 2026

The Gila River Fire Department is recommending the implementation of a moratorium on the issuance of all burn permits within the Gila River Indian Community effective Monday, May 25, 2026. This decision is based on the expectant fire conditions throughout the region, within the Community and our history of moratoriums in the recent past. This request is also in conjunction with the GRIC Department of Environmental Quality and the Bureau of Indian Affairs Pima Agency Fire Management Program.

The increased winds over the last few weeks have continued to lower the fuel moisture content, along with the fuel growth from the rains. These continue to elevate the observed and predicted fire danger index in the Gila River Community and the surrounding areas. Many parts of the State of Arizona and the region have issued RED Flag Warnings, placing restrictions on open burning.

Attached is the official notice on Gila River Indian Community open burning restrictions. Included are the recommended restrictions on Fires and the moratorium on the issuance of open burn permits. The Moratorium will be in effect until further notice.

CONCUR DO NOT CONCUR
 
Stephen Roe Lewis, Governor Date



Gila River Fire Restrictions and Burn Moratorium 2026

The Gila River Indian Community under GR 004-17, Title 21; Fire and Public Safety Ordinance has instituted campfire and open fire restrictions effective **May 25, 2026** and until further notice. The restrictions are as follows:

PROHIBITIONS:

1. Building, maintaining, attending or using fire, campfire, charcoal, coal or wood stove is prohibited, except within a developed recreation site or improved site. The use of petroleum fueled stoves, lanterns or heating devices, providing such devices meet listed specifications for safety, are allowed.
2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site or while stopped in an area at least ten (10) feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all combustible and flammable material and/or vegetation.
3. Issuance of burn permits through the Gila River Department of Environmental Quality.

EXEMPTIONS:

The following persons are exempt from this order:

1. Persons with a permit/approval specifically authorizing the prohibited act, i.e., prescribed burns. Special Permits may be issued on a case by case basis by the Gila River Fire Department and the Department of Environmental Quality only. The permits shall be with the concurrence for air quality management through the Gila River Department of Environmental Quality and will have stringent stipulations and requirements for fire safety. These will only be approved by the Fire Department following a thorough review process involving Fire Operations, Fire Prevention, and the BIA Pima Agency Fire Management Officer. These permits may require a Special Suppression Standby.
2. Any federal, state or local officer or member of an organized firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.
3. Cultural, ceremonial, or religious fires are allowed.

This order is necessary to protect public health and safety because of fire hazard conditions in the Community. For additional information, contact the Gila River Fire Department Fire Prevention Division at (520) 796-5900, the Gila River Department of Environmental Quality at (520) 562-2234, or the BIA Pima Agency Fire Management Officer at (520) 562-3975.