

**HANFORD MISSION INTEGRATION SOLUTIONS
HANFORD FIRE MARSHAL**

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FIRE MARSHAL ADVISORY BULLETIN

DATE: March 27, 2021
TO: HANFORD SITE PERSONNEL
SUBJECT: OFF-ROAD VEHICLE USE and TRAVEL

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this bulletin is to communicate the requirements for off-road vehicle use and travel throughout all seasons by providing specific criteria that must be met based on the current fire danger levels and other increased fire risk conditions such as; “Red Flag Warnings” when applicable.

DEFINITIONS

OFF-ROAD – Any natural terrain surface or any road surface including dirt, gravel, or pavement that is not being maintained in a way that prevents the underside of the vehicle from coming in contact with natural vegetation.

RED FLAG WARNING – A term used by fire-weather forecasters to call attention to weather that may result in extreme fire hazard conditions. Red-Flag Warnings are issued when the fire-weather forecaster has a high degree of confidence that Red Flag criteria will exist within 24 hours after the warning is issued. Red Flag criteria can occur whenever the National Fire Danger Rating is HIGH, VERY HIGH, or EXTREME.

Meteorological conditions that may contribute to a Red Flag Warning are the following:

- High winds
- Low humidity
- High temperatures
- Lightning potential.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Site Personnel

Every person is responsible to notify emergency response personnel if they suspect a wildfire on the Hanford site by calling 911 from a desk phone or (509) 373-0911 from a cell phone.

Additionally, ALL fire incidents shall be reported immediately by calling the same numbers as listed above. This includes any fire thought to be extinguished by a fire extinguisher, water truck, etc.

Project Management

Project management for all Hanford Site contractors shall be responsible for notifying and obtaining concurrence from the Hanford Fire Department's (HFD) on-duty Battalion Chief (509-373-2745) before any activity involving off-road vehicle use and/or travel when the fire danger level is HIGH, VERY HIGH or EXTREME. Notification to the on-duty Battalion Chief should occur between the hours of 0700 and 2000 hours. A Hanford Fire Marshal Permit may be issued for any deviations or clarifications to the requirements of this Advisory Bulletin. Contact your responsible Deputy Fire Marshal for guidance.

Hanford Fire Department/Fire Marshal's Office

The Hanford Fire Department, with support from the Fire Marshal's Office, shall develop the requirements for off-road vehicle use or travel that will include vehicle requirements, communication requirements, fire prevention measures, notification requirements and concurrence requirements (refer to attached table).

INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY & HEALTH MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

This Fire Marshal Advisory Bulletin contributes to the implementation of ISMS Core Function 2 "Identify and Analyze the Hazards", Core Function 3 "Develop and Implement Hazard and Environmental Controls", Guiding Principle 1, "Line Management Responsibility for Safety and Environmental Requirements", Guiding Principle 6, "Hazard Controls Tailored to Work Being Performed" and Guiding Principle 7, "Operations Authorization".

Please call if you have questions regarding these actions or any other fire and life safety concerns.



Coby Sadler, Hanford Fire Marshal
Hanford Fire Department
509-373-4029

cc: file

Attachment
Off-Road Vehicle Activities
Based on Hanford Fire Danger Levels

These requirements are strictly for off-road travel and are in addition to considerations for any work that is being planned in the field for which the off-road travel is required. Based on the work activity, additional requirements (Fire Marshal permit, Hot Work permit, etc.) may also be required.

Fire Danger Level	LOW	MODERATE	HIGH	VERY HIGH	EXTREME
Specific precautions and requirements.	No restrictions but standard Off-Road Equipment must be carried. (see requirements noted below).	Standard Off-Road Equipment PLUS: No vehicle parking or idling over standing vegetation that may come into contact with the underside of the vehicle.	All precautions for MODERATE PLUS: - HFD Battalion Chief notification (373-2745) between the hours of 0700 – 2000, of specific work location and activity to be performed. - Vehicles exhaust system must be above the underside of the vehicle (e.g. stack exhaust) or pre-treatment of potentially ignitable vegetation may be required. Contact your responsible Deputy Fire Marshal for evaluation.	All precautions for HIGH PLUS: - A Fire Marshal Permit is required. - Access allowed only between the hours of 10 pm – 10 am - Additional water fire extinguisher. - A continuous fire watch of the travelled area performed for at least 30 minutes after the end of travel.	CLOSED Contact your responsible Deputy Fire Marshal.

Closure of All Off-Road Activities

Off-road vehicle activities will not be allowed if:

- the Hanford area is under a “Red-Flag Warning” condition
- if winds speeds are expected to exceed 15 MPH and the Fire Danger Level is HIGH or above
- the relative humidity is 15% or less when the Fire Danger Level is HIGH or above

Standard Off-Road Equipment

In all cases of off-road travel, a hand shovel, a fire extinguisher with a minimum 2A:10B:C rating (Note: an additional 2 ½ gallon pressurized water fire extinguisher, or approved equal, is required if traveling off-road during VERY HIGH Danger Levels), and communications (radio or cell phone) must always be provided in each vehicle. Personnel must immediately report any fires to the HFD (509-373-0911 for cell phones) and maintain clear and unobstructed egress from the work location. Any vehicle going “off-road” should be in good working order with a properly functioning exhaust system. A periodic inspection of the undercarriage should also be performed to ensure there is no vegetation caught under the vehicle that could ignite from the exhaust system, catalytic converter, or rotating components.

Pre-Treatment/Removal of Potential Fuels

The pre-treatment/removal of potential fuels involves the removal of the vegetation along the path of travel such that vegetation cannot come in contact with the undercarriage of the vehicles and/or having a water truck wet down the area immediately before travel into and out of the area.

Variance to Off-Road Requirements

Possible deviations or variances to the requirements of this Advisory Bulletin shall be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with the assigned Fire Protection Engineer/Deputy Fire Marshal, Management of the involved facility or project and the HFD Battalion Chief and/or Fire Marshal’s office. If deviation approval is granted; a Hanford Fire Marshal Permit shall be issued documenting limitations and any additional compensatory measures for specific variances to the off-road requirements listed above.