



April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026

BHR POA Open Fire Restriction Policy

**Background.** Colorado has a high risk and history of wildfires resulting in the destruction of forests and billions of dollars of property damage. The dry climate, dense forest and propensity for high wind on Blackhawk Ranch create a real wildfire risk for our community. This winter has been exceptionally dry with precipitation at extremely low levels. Both Huerfano County and Las Animas County Fire Protection Districts are responding to numerous fires in our area and remain on high alert.

**Policy.** Effective immediately and until further notice, burning an outdoor fire on Blackhawk Ranch of any kind including campfires, burning trash or slash piles are prohibited without prior coordination and approval. This prohibition does not include burning fires within a home in a wood stove/fireplace or the use of an outdoor propane grill.

**Open Burning Approval.** To gain approval for outdoor burning, all of the following actions/conditions must be met. It is the responsibility of the property owner to gain approval prior to starting an outdoor fire.

1. Any burning including campfires and slash piles must follow the standards listed in Outdoor Fire Standards listed below.
2. Neither Huerfano or Las Animas county must not have Stage 2 fire restrictions in place. Las Animas County has been in a Stage 1 fire ban since August 2022 and a Stage 2 fire ban since March of 2026. It is the responsibility of the person wanting to burn an outside fire to understand current fire restriction staging.
3. Red Flag Warning or Fire Weather Watch must not be in place. Both are publicly available information posted on [blackhawkranch.org](http://blackhawkranch.org) under the weather section and also the national weather service. [Fire Weather](#)
4. **If you wish to burn a slash pile or large fire not in a fire ring**, contact your Fire Protection District for approval. If approval is granted, contact the BHR Board of Directors for approval at [BHRPOABoard@blackhawkranch.org](mailto:BHRPOABoard@blackhawkranch.org)
  - a. Huerfano County: 719-738-1877
  - b. Las Animas County: 719-456-1363
5. If you wish to have a campfire, contact the Blackhawk Ranch Board of Directors 24 hours in advance for approval at [BHRPOABoard@blackhawkranch.org](mailto:BHRPOABoard@blackhawkranch.org). Provide the timeframe of when the campfire will be burned, a description of the campfire pit or ring and the location of the campfire.

**Outdoor Fire Standards.** If full approval is granted, the following standards must be met.

1. Campfires. All campfires must be in an approved campfire ring, pit or commercial fire pit located at least 30 feet from flammable material of any kind including trash, trees, structures, etc. A campfire pit must be at least 6 to 12 inches deep in the ground and lined on the outside of



the pit with rocks to prevent the fire from spreading.

If in Stage 1 Fire Restrictions, campfires must be in an approved campfire ring or commercial fire pit. A commercial campfire pit with a spark arresting screen is preferred. Rock campfire rings and fire pans are considered temporary and are not acceptable while in Stage 1 Fire Restrictions. Example of a commercial fire ring: [Amazon.com : Commercial Fire Ring 32 Inch with Swivel Grate - Campfire Ring : Patio, Lawn & Garden](#)

Never leave campfires unattended. Sufficient water must be available to put the campfire out.

2. Slash Piles. Burning slash piles must follow your respective counties processes. Contact them for more information.
3. Extinguishing fires. A fire is out when all ashes, embers and coals are cool to the touch. The best way to put out a fire is to drown the fire with water and stir to mix the water with the ashes. Covering a campfire with dirt is always insufficient. You must not leave the fire until it is completely and thoroughly extinguished.
4. If after starting a fire, you are approached by a BHR POA Board Member or a Member of BHR Emergency Management Committee and are requested to extinguish the fire due to existing conditions, please do so. BHR weather conditions can change rapidly.

**Violations.** Violations of this policy will be reported to the respective County Fire Protection District and Sheriff. The Blackhawk Ranch Board of Directors and Emergency Management Committee may fine the property owner \$500 per instance following an investigation of the incident and collection of evidence including photographs. The BHR POA fine policy is defined in Section 8.2 of the Blackhawk Ranch Policies and Procedures.

**Disclaimer.** The BHR POA will be held harmless and not responsible for any action taken by a property owner resulting in an uncontrolled fire, property damage or that is a violation of county or state fire open burning regulations.

This policy supersedes Blackhawk Ranch Policy and Procedures, June 1, 2024, paragraph 7.2.4.

Sincerely,

Blackhawk Ranch Board of Directors