



Emergency Management

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MEMO

TO: County Commission

FROM: Amanda Johnson, Interim Emergency Manager

DATE: May 12, 2025

SUBJECT: Fire Emergency and Burn Restrictions Declaration

Commissioners:

Due to ongoing high fire risk conditions, I recommend the Commission declare a fire emergency and implement burn restrictions when the North Dakota Rangeland Fire Danger Rating for the county is High, Very High, or Extreme, and/or a Red Flag Warning is issued for Cass County.

Under the proposed restrictions, all open burning is prohibited. This includes campfires, garbage or pit burning, controlled burns such as brush piles and agricultural fields, and the use of fireworks — both aerial and ground-based. Exceptions are made for controlled devices such as gas camp stoves, gas, wood-fired, or charcoal grills, and outdoor fireplaces or chimineas, provided they are placed on a hard, non-organic surface at least 15 feet from vegetation, and an extinguisher or water source is immediately available.

These measures are necessary to minimize the potential for wildfires and help ensure the safety of residents and emergency personnel.

Suggested Motion: Move to accept the fire emergency and burn restriction declaration.

Attachment



FIRE EMERGENCY & BURN RESTRICTION DECLARATION
For
Cass County, North Dakota
May 19, 2025

WHEREAS, Cass County, North Dakota has and is expected to continue to endure periods of dry conditions with significant vegetative fuels available; and

WHEREAS, all available resources remain committed to protecting life and property; and

WHEREAS, the impact of fires could threaten the health, well-being, and safety of the citizens in Cass County; and

WHEREAS, Cass County has either sustained or been threatened with rural fires in the past and the local Emergency Management Office has been in consultation with local fire departments; and

WHEREAS, the cost of response, inordinate equipment wear/tear and fire damages may be beyond available county resources; and

WHEREAS, the county wishes to regulate activities within Cass County which pose a potential hazard for such loss, should the present weather conditions continue.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Cass County Commissioners declare a Fire Emergency and Burn Restrictions effective when the North Dakota Rangeland Fire Danger Rating is **High, Very High, or Extreme Rating**, and/or a **Red Flag Warning** has been issued for Cass County, North Dakota, effective immediately until rescinded or through November 1, 2025.

- What's Included
No Open Burning: Includes campfires, controlled burns (i.e., wood piles, tumbleweeds, tree piles, etc.), cropland/agricultural burning, fireworks (aerial and ground), garbage/pit burning
- What's Excluded
Controlled Devices: Only when device (gas camp stoves, gas, charcoal, or wood-fired grills, patio fireplaces and chimineas, smokers) is on a hard, non-organic surface and 15' away from vegetation and an extinguisher or water is available on site.

THE PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF THIS BURN RESTRICTION IS A CLASS B MISDEMEANOR (NDCC 37.17.1-10.1: MAXIMUM SENTENCE OF 30 DAYS IN JAIL AND \$1,500.00 FINE).

The Daily Fire Danger Rating is available at the following website: <https://ndresponse.gov/burn>

DATED at Cass County, North Dakota on this 19th day of May 2025

Tony Grindberg, Chairman
Cass County Commission

Robert Wilson
Cass County Administrator