




Emergency Management

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MEMO

TO: County Commission

FROM: Jim Prochniak, Emergency Manager 

DATE: October 29, 2024

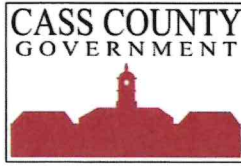
SUBJECT: Fire Emergency and Burn Restrictions Declaration

Commissioners:

- We are all aware of the extremely dry conditions. Numerous fires to include two major fires which damaged buildings and exhausted many rural fire departments have resulted in the need to take more proactive measures.
- Our rural fire chiefs request an ongoing continuation of the present burn restriction until we have received significant widespread moisture, or we have snow on the ground. At which time I will request the restriction be rescinded.
- Based on the number of calls for service, the ongoing drought conditions, the strain on volunteer department personnel and equipment, I'm requesting the commission accept the attached fire emergency and burn restrictions declaration.

Suggested Motion: Move to accept the fire emergency and burn restriction declaration until conditions of widespread moisture greatly reduce the threat of fire.

Attachment



FIRE EMERGENCY & BURN RESTRICTIONS DECLARATION
For
Cass County, North Dakota
November 4, 2024

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, 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 impact of fires could threaten the health, well-being, and safety of the citizens in Cass County; 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 (to include campfires, garbage/pit burning, burning of farmland, cropland and/or ditches, and the use of fire to demolish structures) effective when the North Dakota Rangeland Fire Danger Rating is in the *High, Very High or Extreme Rating and/or Red Flag Warning* has been issued for Cass County, North Dakota, effective immediately until rescinded.

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 A \$1,500.00 FINE).

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

DATED at Cass County, North Dakota on this 4th day of November, 2024

Chad Peterson, Chairman
Cass County Commission

Brandy Madrigga
Cass County Finance Director