

WARD COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

225 3RD ST SE
PO BOX 5005
MINOT ND 58702-5005

FIRE EMERGENCY AND RESTRICTION

For

WARD COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA

March 18, 2025

WHEREAS, Ward County, North Dakota has endured abnormally dry conditions compiled with high winds; and

WHEREAS, several rural fires have already occurred as a result of the current conditions; and

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

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

WHEREAS, the cost of the response and the inordinate equipment wear may be far in excess of available County resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Ward County Commissioners declares a Fire Emergency and Burn Restriction (to include a ban on burning grass, trees, garbage/pit burning, campfires, and wood piles, etc.) remain in effect when, according to the North Dakota Fire Danger Guide, the North Dakota Rangeland Fire Danger Rating is in "High, Very High, Extreme", and/or a "Red Flag Warning" has been issued for Ward County, North Dakota. The declaration will remain in place until November 30, 2025.

Crop residue and slough burning will be allowed when the Fire Index Rating is "High" with a tilled firebreak encompassing the perimeter of the burn, be in attendance until burn is completed, and Central Dispatch has been notified of the burn.

The use of Fireworks is banned when the Fire Index Rating is "Very High or Extreme" or a "Red Flag Warning" has been issued.

This declaration does not ban the use of grills or commercially sold enclosed fire pits, it is recommended that grills or enclosed fire devise be on non-organic surface and be a minimum of 15 feet away from any vegetation.

THE PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF THIS BURN BAN IS A CLASS B MISDEMEANOR (NDCC37-17.1-10.1: MAXIMUM SENTENCE OF 30 DAYS IN JAIL AND \$1,500 FINE.)

DATED at Minot, North Dakota this 18th day of March 2025.



John Fjeldahl, Chairman
Ward County Commission