

Clay County Emergency Management
PRESS RELEASE
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John Ward- 904-541-2767



Clay County- Burn Ban in effect;

With unusually dry conditions indicating a substantial increase in wildfire probability and pursuant to Ordinance numbered 04-1, the County Manager of Clay County issued a burn ban today that will remain in effect until further notice.

The ban prohibits all outdoor burning that has not been specifically permitted by the Florida Forest Service. This includes burning yard waste, bon fires and campfires on private or county property. As of May 9, 2017, exceedingly dry, parched and windy conditions have continued for several months, giving rise to a declare a state of emergency for a period up to and including May 15, 2017.

Although the use of gas grills and charcoal grills are permitted, the public is encouraged to keep a constant watch for any stray sparks or embers while cooking outdoors. Additionally, due to the potential for accidental ignitions, the use of motorized equipment such as ATVs and dirt bikes are not suggested during times of high wildfire risk. Lawnmowers can also pose accidental ignition risks.

One of the more effective ways to reduce the possibility of wildfires is to clear underbrush or debris. These dry plants and vegetation create more fuel for wildfires and particularly cause the wildland to interface close enough to homes thus making it more vulnerable to wildfire. Wildfire prevention tips include:

- Prune all branches around the residence to a height of 8 to 10 feet. Keep trees adjacent to buildings free of dead or dying limbs and moss.
- Remove all dead limbs, needles and debris from rain gutters.
- Avoid open burning completely, especially during this dry season.
- Regularly dispose of newspapers and rubbish.
- Rake leaves, dead limbs and twigs. Clear flammable vegetation from around and under structures.
- Remove dead branches that extend over the roof.
- Store flammable materials in approved safety cans.
- Keep items available that can be used as fire tools, such as a rake, handsaw, chainsaw, bucket and shovel
- Never throw a lighted cigarette from the window of a vehicle or walk off and leave a burning cigarette.

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