

**RESOLUTION NO. R-024-2021  
ORDER OF BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
ADAMS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

**IN THE MATTER OF DECLARATION OF HAZARDOUS FIRE CONDITIONS**

**WHEREAS**, Adams County is experiencing weather conditions that are contributing to unusual fire conditions, and the potential for large and catastrophic fires exists that may be a threat to life and cause damage or destruction to homes, businesses, orchards/farmlands and natural resources.

**WHEREAS**, the potential for damage to homes and businesses, orchards/farmland and natural resources is high.

**WHEREAS**, the Adams County Fire Marshal, due to prior history within Adams County, has determined and hereby declares, that hazardous situations exist between June and September.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section #1:** It is hereby declared that a hazardous situation exists and that actions involving various county and other local agencies must be taken to help alleviate threats and damages.

**Section #2:** Due to hazardous fire conditions existing in Adams County there is established a burn ban by the Commissioners on outdoor burning of combustible materials in the county. Combustible materials may include, but are not limited to, outdoor burning of yard waste and non-emergent agricultural burning.

**Section #3:** The Adams County burn restriction does not affect fires at State or Federal campgrounds in approved devices (check for state or federal bans); agricultural burning such as the burning of field crop residue and orchard tear out residue; and, weed abatement by state or federal irrigation districts, provided the burning is permitted and conducted in accordance with the Washington Department of Ecology. (For more information on agricultural burning, contact the Adams County Fire Marshal's office, local Adams County Fire Districts and the Department of Ecology directly.)

**Section #4: Exempt Recreational Fires:**

The use of gas or charcoal fired barbecues is allowed.

The Adams County Commissioners, Adams County Fire Marshal and/or the Fire District Chief may allow a recreational fire exemption during times when outdoor burning fires are prohibited providing:

This exemption will only apply to those improved private recreational areas located within Adams County.

Recreational fires shall not be conducted within twenty five (25) feet of a structure or combustible material. Conditions which could cause a fire to spread within twenty five (25) feet of a structure or combustible material shall be eliminated prior to ignition. Recreational fires shall be no larger than three feet in diameter and shall not be associated with any debris, yard, or garden clean-up.

**Attendance:**

Open burning, camp fires, or recreational fires shall be constantly attended until the fire is completely extinguished. The attendant shall have some form of fire-extinguishing equipment such as a shovel and dirt, sand, class A fire extinguisher, water barrel, garden hose, or water truck sufficient to extinguish the fire and available for immediate use.

**Section #5: Definitions:**

**Open Burning:** The burning of materials wherein the products of combustion are emitted directly into the ambient air without passing through a stack or chimney from an enclosed chamber. Open burning does not include road flares, smudge pots and similar devices associated with safety or occupational uses typically considered open flames or recreational fires. For the purpose of this definition, a chamber shall be regarded as enclosed when, during the

time combustion occurs, only apertures, ducts, stacks, flues or chimneys necessary to provide combustion air and permit the escape of exhaust gas are open.

**Recreational Fire:** An outdoor fire burning material, other than rubbish, where the fuel being burned is not contained in an incinerator; outdoor fireplace; or barbecue grill and is contained within a three (3) feet or less diameter concrete or steel ring no less than eight (8) inches in height and has a total fuel area of three (3) feet or less in diameter and two (2) feet or less in height for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes.

**Section #6:** The Adams County Fire Marshal may grant campgrounds or special events an exemption to a burn ban upon application to the Adams County Fire Marshal and the payment of a processing fee in the amount of sixty-five dollars (\$65.00) per hour with a minimum of one (1) hour. Any exemption shall contain such conditions as the Fire Marshal and applicable Fire District deem necessary to mitigate the concerns for extreme fire hazard. Such exemptions and conditions shall be in writing and included in the exemption permit issued by the Fire Marshal's Office. A copy of the permit shall be prominently posted at the burning site. An exemption permit issued by the Fire Marshal shall satisfy the requirements for the applicable Fire District where the property is located.

**Section #7: Violations:**

The performance of any act prohibited by this resolution shall be considered a violation subject to the provisions of Adams County Code Title 1.16 **"General Penalty"**.

1.16.010 Designated.

A. Any person violating the provisions of or failing to comply with the mandatory requirements of any ordinance of Adams County is guilty of a misdemeanor. Except in cases where a different punishment is prescribed by ordinance, any person convicted of a misdemeanor under the ordinances of Adams County shall be punished by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars or by imprisonment not to exceed ninety days, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

B. A person is guilty of a separate offense for each and every day that a violation of any provision of the ordinances of Adams County is committed, continued or permitted by the person, and he may be punished accordingly. (Ord. O-2-91 § 1)

**Section #8:** This burn ban is effective June 1, 2021 and will continue to be enforced until official notice is made rescinding the burn ban by the Board of Commissioners for Adams County, Washington.

**Dated** this 17th day of May, 2021.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
ADAMS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
Dan C. Blankenship, Chairman

  
Terrance J. Thompson, Vice Chairman

  
Jay R. Weise, Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
Patricia J. Phillips, CMC  
Clerk of the Board

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Handwritten signatures and initials, including a large signature that appears to be "H. H. H." and several smaller initials.

