



Info

Release

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Martin County issues burn ban in response to dry conditions

Today, Martin County Fire Rescue executed a Declaration of State of Local Emergency in Response to the Threat of Wildfires. The declaration bans the usage of fireworks, sparklers, campfires, backyard and burning in a barrel, etc. This burn ban was implemented due to the extremely dry conditions that are being experienced at this time. Though the ban does not regulate backyard grilling, citizens are strongly encouraged to never leave a fire unattended and ensure the fire is out when leaving.

Since March 28, 2017, Martin County Fire Rescue had stopped all permits for backyard, residential burning. This was further expanded on by the Florida Forest Service to restrict commercial and agricultural burning in April. Below are some safety tips on how to be fire safe and prepared:

- **Practice wildfire safety**
 - Do not discard cigarettes from moving vehicles.
 - Do not park a hot car or operate all-terrain vehicles on dry grass.
 - Check lawnmowers and farm equipment for properly working spark arresters.
 - Extinguish fires when cooking outdoors, and never leave fires unattended.
- **Protect your home**
 - Design and landscape your home with fire safety in mind. Allow a 30-foot buffer of non-combustible material around your home.
 - Use non-combustible materials on your roof and learn your roof and gutters regularly.
 - Teach family members how to use a fire extinguisher.
 - Test smoke detectors regularly.
 - Inspect chimneys twice a year and clean them once a year.
 - Rake leaves and dead limbs and twigs. Clear any flammable vegetation.
 - Have a garden hose long enough to reach any area of your home and property.
- **When wildfire threatens**
 - Listen to the media or weather radio for civil emergency messages about where the danger is. Martin County citizens can sign up for emergency notification online. Go to www.martin.fl.us and type "CODERED" in the search bar.
 - Prepare your family, pets and supplies in case you have to evacuate. For more information on the "Ready, Set, Go!" program, click [here](#).
 - If told to evacuate, do so immediately.
 - If evacuating, tell someone you are leaving and where you are going. Drive away from fire hazards and listen to public safety officials.

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DW/FRD-LB/ADM

www.martin.fl.us

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MARTIN COUNTY