

## Special Morton County Commission Meeting Agenda

**August 16, 2017**

**Commission Room, Morton County Courthouse**

**210 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave NW, Mandan ND**

**12:00 PM**

Call to order

Roll Call

Approval of Agenda

1. Tom Doering/ MC Emergency Manager

- Rescinding the current Emergency Burn and Fireworks Ban/Total Burn Ban Declaration

\*ISSUES MAY BE ADDED OR DELETED BY MEETING DAY.

The proposed motion will be to rescind the Emergency Burn and Fireworks Ban dated June 8<sup>th</sup> 2017 and revert back to the Fire Emergency and Burn Ban dated April 13, 2017.

Neither document nor a rescind declaration need to be signed.

Both documents are attached.

Justifications listed below:

- Recent county-wide precipitation has significantly decreased the propensity for wildfires
- Rescinding the Emergency Burn and Fireworks Ban will allow persons to conduct open burning in accordance with the original Fire Emergency and Burn Ban
- Reverting back to the Fire Emergency and Burn Ban will continue to prohibit open burning when conditions are conducive for the spread of wildfires

Tom Doering  
Morton County Emergency Manager  
701-595-2971



Tom Doering  
Morton County  
Emergency Manager

**MORTON COUNTY**  
OFFICE OF  
Emergency Management



210 2<sup>nd</sup> AVENUE N.W. ~ MANDAN, NORTH DAKOTA 58554 ~ PHONE (701) 667-3307

## **FIRE EMERGENCY AND BURN BAN MORTON COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA**

April 13, 2017

**WHEREAS**, the Morton County Board of Commissioners recognizes that current and forecasted dry weather conditions, combined with ample vegetation, creates a combustible formula for unnecessary fire loss and presents a risk for the citizens and property in Morton County, North Dakota; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board wishes to regulate activities within Morton County which pose a potential hazard for such loss, should these weather conditions continue; and

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

**WHEREAS**, the impact of fires could threaten the health, well-being, and safety of Morton County's citizens; and

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

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Morton County Board of Commissioners declares a Fire Emergency and Burn Ban effectively banning the starting of fires in an unenclosed space, including burning of leaves, grass clippings, garbage pits, construction debris, fallen trees, crop residue or hay land, sloughs and bonfires. This Fire Emergency and Burn Ban declaration is in effect when the North Dakota Rangeland Fire Danger Rating is in the High, Very High or Extreme category and/or a Red Flag Warning has been issued for Morton County, North Dakota and remains in effect until further notice. The Morton County Parks Director has the prerogative of posting burning restrictions at Morton County Parks which may be more restrictive than the county burn ban and dependent on the fire danger, could change once or more during any given day. This ban **DOES NOT** include manufactured devices that control or confine the fire to a degree it is safe when not under continued observation, such as gas, charcoal or wood fired grills, screened patio fireplaces and chimineas, gas camp stoves and smokers within the City Limits of Almont, Flasher, Glen Ullin, Hebron, Mandan and New Salem.

**THE PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF THIS BURN BAN IS A CLASS B MISDEMEANOR (NDCC 37-17.1-10.1: MAXIMUM SENTENCE OF 30 DAYS IN JAIL AND \$1,500 FINE).**

The daily Fire Danger Rating can be found at the following Web site:  
<https://www.nd.gov/des/planning/fire-danger-awareness/Default.asp>

DATED at Mandan, North Dakota this 13th day of April, 2017.

Cody Schulz, Chairman  
Morton County Commission



Tom Doering  
Morton County  
Emergency Manager

**MORTON COUNTY**  
OFFICE OF  
Emergency Management



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**EMERGENCY BURN AND FIREWORKS BAN DECLARATION**  
For  
**MORTON COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA**

June 8th, 2017

**WHEREAS**, the Morton County Board of Commissioners recognizes that abnormally dry conditions combined with high winds and almost daily fire responses within Morton County; and

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

**WHEREAS**, the impact of fires threatens the health, well-being, and safety of citizens in Morton County; and

**WHEREAS**, the lighting and use of fireworks within Morton County indeed could cause wildfires that could threaten the health, well-being, and safety of citizens in Morton County; and

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

**WHEREAS**, the Fire Danger Index does not realistically reflect the propensity for wildland fires; and

**WHEREAS**, Morton County's Rural Fire Departments have responded to (15) Grass Fires in the last 30-days.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Morton County Board of Commissioners declares a Total Burn Ban on open burning and the use of fireworks in Morton County (regardless of fire danger categories assigned per the North Dakota Adjective Fire Danger Map) effective immediately until further notice. The only allowed exceptions are the responsible use of gas grills and gas stoves used at a safe distance from combustible materials.

**THE PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF THIS BURN BAN IS A CLASS B MISDEMEANOR (NDCC 37-17.1-10.1: MAXIMUM SENTENCE OF 30 DAYS IN JAIL AND \$1,500 FINE).**

DATED at Mandan, North Dakota, June 8th, 2017.

  
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Cody Schulz, Chairman  
Morton County Commission