



Tom Doering
Morton County
Emergency Manager

MORTON COUNTY
OFFICE OF
Emergency Management



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

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Contact: Morton County PIO (701) 426-1587

Morton County website: <http://www.co.morton.nd.us/>

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Morton County Issues Burn Ban Due to Dry Conditions

Mandan, N.D. – Due to current and forecasted dry weather conditions, Morton County Commissioners have declared a Fire Emergency and Burn Ban that bans the starting of fires in an unenclosed space. This includes burning of leaves, grass clippings, garbage pits, construction debris, fallen trees, crop residue or hay land, sloughs and bonfires.

The dry conditions, combined with ample vegetation, create a combustible formula for unnecessary fire loss. The impact of fires could threaten the health, well-being, and safety of Morton County's citizens, and put property in Morton County at risk. In addition, the cost of response and inordinate equipment wear may be far in excess of available County resources.

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 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 chimneas, gas camp stoves and smokers within the City Limits of Almont, Flasher, Glen Ullin, Hebron, Mandan and New Salem.

The Commission has the authority to regulate activities with a potential hazard for loss and to protect life and property. The penalty for violation of this burn ban is a Class B Misdemeanor (NDCC 37-17.1-10.1) with a maximum sentence of 30 days in jail and a \$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>

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