



Tom Doering  
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**MORTON COUNTY**  
OFFICE OF  
Emergency Management



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### **For Immediate Release**

June 9, 2017

Contact: Morton County Emergency Manager (701) 667-3307

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### **Morton County Declares Mandatory County-wide Total Burn Ban**

Mandan, N.D. – After reviewing Morton County’s current fire conditions and the area weather forecast, the Morton County Commission has declared 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. The commission voted at its meeting June 8 to place the ban into effect immediately and until further notice. The mandatory burn ban affects the unincorporated areas of Morton County. The County’s mandatory burn ban prohibits all of the following:

- All outdoor burning that has not been specifically authorized by local fire departments
- The use of any fireworks, sparklers, flares, or other pyrotechnic devices except as provided by law for public displays requiring a permit
- Agricultural burning
- The use of charcoal grills or wood-burning stoves

The only allowed exceptions are the responsible use of gas grills and gas stoves used at a safe distance from combustible materials.

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, dirt bikes and lawnmowers also pose accidental ignition risks. Citizens are asked to exercise caution during the burn ban.

“Working together, Morton County citizens and local fire departments can avoid accidental ignitions,” said Morton County Emergency Manager Tom Doering. “Fire Chiefs and Emergency Management staffs from Morton County, Mandan, Burleigh County and Bismarck, as well as the smaller cities in Morton County, will continue to communicate in an effort to plan for and respond to any future fires.”

Any burning within the restricted area during the imposed ban is considered a Class B Misdemeanor, (NDCC 37-17.1-10-.1) with a maximum sentence of 30 days in jail and a \$1,500 fine.

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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