

Lake County Office of Emergency Management
PUBLIC NOTICE: LAKE COUNTY BURN BAN
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 25, 2021
For More Information: Kody Keefer, Emergency Manager, [605-256-7611](tel:605-256-7611)

Effective April 21, 2015, Lake County, South Dakota adopted Ordinance #15-59, an open burning ordinance. The general provision of this ordinance states that open burning (with exceptions listed in the ordinance) is prohibited immediately and autonomously when the National Weather Service places a RED FLAG WARNING for the county or the GRASSLAND FIRE DANGER INDEX for the county is Very High or Extreme.

The Lake County Commission, pursuant to SDCL 7-8-20(18) and Ordinance #15-59, has also authorized the Lake County Office of Emergency Management to enact a broader Declaration of Fire Danger Emergency and to Prohibit Open Burning Within the County or restrict open burning. Ordinance #15-59 is available for review at: <http://www.lake.sd.gov/custom/open-burning>

Because Lake County is experiencing very dry conditions due to the lack of rain, unduly hazardous fire conditions now exist in the County. After consultation with local fire officials and law enforcement officials, the Lake County Office of Emergency Management is hereby enacting a Declaration of Fire Danger Emergency and Prohibiting Open Burning Within the County to protect public health and safety.

“Open burning” shall be defined as any outdoor fire, including but not limited to the prescribed burning of fence rows, fields, wildlands, trash, and debris, the intentional burning of any substance, whether natural or manmade, or the intentional casting off of any burning substance, whether natural or manmade, except the burning of such substance in a container sufficient so as to prohibit the escape of any of the burning substance, or any sparks, flames, or hot ashes from the container. This excludes fires contained within liquid-fueled or gas-fueled stoves, fireplaces within all buildings, charcoal grill fires at private residences, and permanent fire pits or fire grates located on supervised developed picnic grounds and campgrounds.

It is recommended that the public limits or even suspends discharging fireworks unless conditions improve. If you do decide to discharge fireworks, have something along to extinguish any fires that may start (i.e. bucket of water or fire extinguisher). It is easier for you to extinguish a small fire rather than have a fire department respond to a larger one that could possibly do severe damage to others’ property or endanger firefighters.

Questions may be directed to the local Fire Chief in your jurisdiction or Lake County Emergency Management Director Kody Keefer, [605-480-5305](tel:605-480-5305), lakeema@lake.sd.gov

This ban will be in place until fire conditions improve as determined by emergency personnel within Lake County and it is effective Friday, June 25, 2021.