



**2023 FIRE EMERGENCY AND  
BURN RESTRICTION  
WILLIAMS COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA**  
August 1, 2023



**WHEREAS**, Williams County, North Dakota currently in a drought with extreme to severe conditions, and has experienced high winds, as well as continued, forecasted dry weather conditions; and has a high volume of vegetative fuels available; and

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

**WHEREAS**, Williams County, North Dakota has sustained or been threatened with rural fires as of this date, and Williams County Office of Emergency Management has been in consultation with local fire departments; and

**WHEREAS**, the impact of fires could threaten the health, well-being, and safety of citizens in Williams County; and

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

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Williams County Commissioners declare a Fire Emergency and Automatic Burn Restriction effective when the North Dakota Rangeland Fire Danger Rating is in the Very High or Extreme Rating and/or a Red Flag Warning has been issued for Williams County, North Dakota, effective immediately through December 31, 2023.

**What's Included**

**When the ND Rangeland Fire Danger Rating is **Very High, Extreme, and/or Red Flag Warning****

- No Open Burning: Includes ignition of fireworks, burning of leaves, grass clippings, garbage/pits, construction debris, fallen trees, crop residue or hay land, sloughs, and campfires/bonfires/recreation fire.

**When the ND Rangeland Fire Danger Rating is **Extreme, and/or Red Flag Warning****

- Unnecessary off-road motorized travel.

**What's Excluded**

Controlled Devices: Only when device(s) (gas, charcoal, wood-fired/pellet grills, gas patio fireplaces and chimineas, gas camp stoves, and smokers/pellet grills) is/are on a hard, non-organic surface and 15' away from vegetation and an extinguisher or water is available on site.

Additionally, burning will be allowed with a Low, Moderate and High Fire Danger Rating upon approval of a burn permit issued by the Upper Missouri District Health Unit and once the local fire response authority has approved said burn permit. An exception for an immediate agriculture necessity for removing leftover standing crops despite the fire danger rating can be given from the local fire authority.


**Information about burning in Williams County can be found at:**

<https://www.williamsnd.com/burning-in-williams-county/>

**ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO WILLFULLY VIOLATES THE BURN RESTRICTION IS GUILTY OF A CLASS B MISDEMEANOR (NDCC 37-17.1.10.1: MAXIMUM SENTENCE OF 30 DAYS IN JAIL AND A \$1,500.00 FINE).**

DATED at Williston, North Dakota this 1<sup>st</sup> day of August 2023

  
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Cory Hanson, Chairman  
Williams County Commission

Attest:   
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Beth Innis  
Williams County Auditor