

PUBLIC NOTICE

MORTON COUNTY DECLARES FIRE EMERGENCY AND BURN BAN

In conjunction with Morton County Emergency Management and following the recommendation of the Morton County Fire Chiefs, Morton County Commission Chairman Nathan Boehm has approved a Fire Emergency and Burn Ban effective immediately on August 7, 2026. The declaration will remain in effect for seven days and will be reviewed by the Morton County Commission during its regularly scheduled meeting on Aug. 13.

Current and forecasted dry weather conditions, combined with extremely dry vegetation throughout Morton County, have created conditions where fires can spread rapidly, threatening lives, property, and natural resources. The Fire Emergency and Burn Ban has been issued to reduce the risk of human-caused wildland fires and protect the safety of residents, visitors, and emergency responders.

The Fire Emergency and Burn Ban prohibits all open burning throughout Morton County. This includes: campfires, controlled burns (wood piles, tumbleweeds, tree piles, etc.), cropland and agricultural burning, outdoor fireplaces and wood-burning chimineas, aerial and ground fireworks, garbage or pit burning, charcoal grills and smokers, wood-fired grills and smokers, outdoor welding and other hot work activities.

The declaration allows the use of controlled gas-fired devices only under the following conditions: Gas grills, gas patio fireplaces, gas chimineas, and gas camp stoves must be placed on a hard, non-organic surface. Devices must be located at least 15 feet away from vegetation. A fire extinguisher or water source must be readily available.

Residents are also encouraged to take additional precautions to prevent accidental fires. When towing trailers, ensure safety chains are not dragging, as they can create sparks capable of igniting dry grass. Likewise, avoid parking or driving vehicles on dry vegetation whenever possible, as hot exhaust systems can start wildland fires.

The Fire Emergency and Burn Ban supersedes the current Burn Restriction while it remains in effect.

The cities of Mandan, Glen Ullin, Hebron, and Flasher maintain their own fire emergency and burn ordinances through adopted fire codes.

Violations of the Fire Emergency and Burn Ban are a Class B Misdemeanor under North Dakota Century Code 37-17.1-10.1 and are punishable by up to 30 days in jail and a \$1,500 fine.

Residents with questions about what activities are permitted during the Fire Emergency and Burn Ban are encouraged to contact Morton County Emergency Management or their local fire department.

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