



Emergency Burn Closure Order

Whereas, the period from April 1 to August 31, inclusive, of each year has been designated the fire season pursuant to AS 41.15.050;

Whereas, the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources has delegated certain statutory authorities to the State Forester of the Division of Forestry and Fire Protection (the "Division"), and such delegated authority includes those encompassed by AS 41.15.050;

Whereas, the State Forester has determined under AS 41.15.050 that past and present prevailing weather conditions have caused extremely dry and smoky conditions;

Whereas, emergency responders and crews are working active wildland fires in decentralized and remote locations;

Whereas, the Alaska Multi-Agency Coordination Group is elevating the state to Preparedness Level 5, which is the highest level in the Alaska Preparedness Plan and assigned when large fires that require incident management teams are occurring on several areas simultaneously, and most of the initial and extended attack resources are committed to new and existing fires; and

Whereas, the State Forester has further determined that it is necessary to prohibit certain activities which unduly increase the fire danger pursuant to AS 41.15.010, AS 41.15.050 and 11 AAC 95.450;

IT IS HEREBY THE ORDER OF THE STATE FORESTER, pursuant to AS 41.15.050 and 11 AAC 95.450, that beginning on July 1, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. Alaska Daylight Savings Time, and continuing until rescinded, the following are prohibited in the areas identified below:

- All burning activity that requires a local or state issued burn permit, to include burn barrels, debris piles, and lawn burning, and large-scale contractor, agricultural and miscellaneous burning (this prohibition includes otherwise valid, issued permits);
- Cooking, warming, and signaling fires not normally requiring a permit under 11 AAC 95.412 (d)(2) that are not contained in a Division-approved steel fire ring or other non-flammable containment device (rock rings are not an approved containment device); and
- Outdoor burning devices that require an open/exposed flame to operate that are not commercially manufactured and do not meet the definition of an "approved burning device."¹

¹ 11 AAC 95.495 (1) "approved burning device" means any propane, charcoal, or pellet grill; outdoor stove; fireplace; incinerator; hydronic heater; or similar device that

(A) is of commercial or standard manufacture;

(B) contains burning material;

(C) is equipped with safeguards to prevent escapement of fire, such as spark arrestors or other devices; and

(D) is not a burn barrel;

This Order applies to all state, private, and municipal lands within the following Boroughs and Division of Forestry and Fire Protection areas:

- Kenai Peninsula Borough
- Matanuska Susitna Borough
- Denali Borough
- Fairbanks NorthStar Borough
- Town of Delta and surrounding areas
- Town of Tok and surrounding areas
- Town of Glenallen and surrounding areas

Warming and cooking campfires defined under 11 AAC 95.412 Permit Required (d)(2) established in wildland fire incident command posts and authorized spike camps that are in use by emergency responders and crews are excepted from this closure if they meet the following conditions:

- less than three feet in diameter and two feet in flame height;
- consist of only non-treated wood and/or paper debris;
- are directly supervised at all times
- are fully extinguished and cold to the touch when not in use.

This order does not replace or amend previously issued fire restrictions unless specifically stated. Violations of this order may be prosecuted under AS 41.15.140 and other applicable authorities.

Helge Eng
State Forester and Division Director

Date