



## Walton County Emergency Operations Center JOINT INFORMATION CENTER

### **Walton County Implements Burn Ban to Protect Community and Environment**

WALTON COUNTY, FL — In response to the dangerous fire weather conditions, the Walton County Board of County Commissioners has instituted a Burn Ban, effective immediately. The burn ban is aimed at mitigating the potential hazards associated with open burning, as well as protecting the environment, public health, and property.

The Walton County Burn Ban Resolution enforces restrictions, prohibits any burning of any kind, with the exception of cooking in a contained gas or charcoal grill. All combustible material or any outdoor burning activity is prohibited. These measures are essential to prevent wild and urban fires, especially during dry and windy conditions, which increase the likelihood of fires spreading rapidly and causing extensive damage.

"The safety of our community and the protection of our environment is our priority," stated Danny Glidewell, Board Chair of the Walton County Board of County Commissioners. "The implementation of a burn ban is a proactive step to safeguard our residents, property, and natural resources from the devastating effects of wildfires."

The burn ban will remain in effect until further notice, and any violations may result in fines, penalties, or other legal consequences. Walton County Sheriff's Office Fire Rescue, South Walton Fire District, DeFuniak Springs Fire Department, Florida Forest Service, and Walton County Emergency Management, as the Walton Fire Council have recommended this ban. Local law enforcement agencies including Walton County Sheriff's Office and DeFuniak Springs Police Department will be responsible for enforcing these restrictions.

Residents are encouraged to exercise caution and report any suspicious or unauthorized burning activities to the local authorities. While open burning is banned, alternative methods of yard waste disposal are available, such as composting and the use of designated waste disposal sites.

For more information and updates regarding the burn ban, please contact your local fire district or visit the Walton County website, [co.walton.fl.us](http://co.walton.fl.us).

###

**WALTON COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
**Board of County Commissioners**

William "Boots" McCormick, District 1 - Vice Chair  
Danny Glidewell, District 2 - Chair  
Brad Drake, District 3  
Donna Johns, District 4  
Tony Anderson, District 5



P.O. Box 1355  
DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435  
Phone: (850) 892-8155  
Fax: (850) 892-8454  
[www.co.walton.fl.us](http://www.co.walton.fl.us)

**RESOLUTION 2023- 83**

**THE PURPOSE OF THIS RESOLUTION IS THE MITIGATION OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY HAZARD POSED BY WILDFIRES DURING THE CURRENT DRY WEATHER CONDITIONS CURTAILING THE PRACTICE OF OUTDOOR BURNING**

**WHEREAS**, the Walton County Board of Commissioners does hereby find that the circumstances present in Walton County create a public safety hazard that would be exacerbated by outdoor burning; and

**WHEREAS**, the Walton County Sheriff's Office Fire Rescue, South Walton Fire District, DeFuniak Springs Fire Department, Florida Forest Service, and Walton County Emergency Management comprising the Walton Fire Council have conferred and support the banning of open burning and certain fireworks use; and

**WHEREAS**, all outdoor burning of yard trash, household paper products, bonfires, campfires, warming fires, outdoor fire places, chimneys, and cooking fires within said jurisdiction is prohibited unless: 1) authorized by the Florida Forest Service or 2) for the cooking of food exclusively within a contained gas or charcoal grill; and

**WHEREAS**, the setting of fires to any grass, brush, or forest covered land, unless authorized by the Florida Forest Service, shall constitute a violation of the law; and

**WHEREAS**, this resolution shall expire when conditions are again deemed safe, upon such date as determined by the Walton County Board of Commissioners;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT BURNING IS PROHIBITED IN ALL OF WALTON COUNTY, FL AS FOLLOWS:**

- 1) Actions prohibited:
  - a) A person violates this resolution if he/she burns any combustible material in an outdoor area.
  - b) A person violates this resolution if he/she engages in any outdoor activity which could allow flames or sparks that could result in a fire.
  
- 2) Enforcement:
  - a) Upon notification of suspected outdoor burning, Walton County Fire Rescue, South Walton Fire District, DeFuniak Springs Fire Department, Liberty Fire District, Argyle Fire District, and any other bona fide fire district with jurisdiction within the

County shall respond as usual to the scene and take immediate measures to contain and/or extinguish the fire.

b) As soon as possible, Walton County Sheriff's Office (or Defuniak Springs Police Department if in the city limits) shall respond to the scene to investigate the nature of the fire. The officer will request immediate compliance with this resolution.

3) This resolution does not apply to the following outdoor burning activities:

- a) Firefighter training
- b) Burn operations approved by the Florida Forest Service
- c) Cooking of food exclusively within a contained gas or charcoal grill

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the Board of County Commissioners of Walton County, Florida, has caused this resolution to be enacted and executed this 1<sup>st</sup> day of November 2023.

*for* *Lexetta A. Sanders*  
Alex Alford, Clerk of Court

And County Comptroller



*[Signature]*  
Daniel "Danny" Glidewell, Chairman

Board of County Commissioners