

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Betsy Clayton, APR/CPRC
Communications Director
Lee County Government
239 533-2221
LeeCountyPIO@leegov.com

Lee Commissioners authorize burn ban for all of Lee County to be signed by chairman when conditions are met

Fort Myers, FL, June 4, 2024 – The Lee Board of County Commissioners voted Tuesday to authorize a burn ban for unincorporated Lee County and municipalities effective as warranted due to increasingly dry conditions throughout Southwest Florida. The ban will go into effect once the drought index reaches 600.

The county's ordinance bans "outdoor burning ignition sources," including campfires, bonfires and trash burning. Grills for food and backyard fire rings are not included. Officials ask all county residents to be mindful of dry conditions and to use good judgment to mitigate potential for significant wildfires.

The Florida Forest Service offers residents information and tips at:

- Be Wildfire Ready: www.fdacs.gov/Forest-Wildfire/Wildland-Fire/Fire-Prevention/Be-Wildfire-Ready
- Ready, Set, Go! Resources: www.fdacs.gov/Forest-Wildfire/Wildland-Fire/Fire-Safety/Ready-Set-Go!-Resources

For the county to enact a burn ban, certain conditions must be met, including a Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) that reached or exceeds a value of 600. Lee's index value Monday was a mean average of 593 out of 800. The county also coordinates with the Lee County Fire Chiefs' Association and the Florida Forest Service, both of which support the ban.

This ban does not apply to prescribed burns authorized by the Florida Forest Service, authorized public fireworks displays permitted by Lee County and other government agencies, and fireworks sales authorized by state laws.

The burn ban is accomplished by the Board adopting a State of Local Emergency. Commission Chairman Mike Greenwell will sign the State of Local Emergency and the burn ban as authorized by the Board vote as conditions are met.

County officials will continue to monitor the drought conditions to determine how long the burn ban will be in place.

To receive updates from Lee County Government, sign up for the newsletter here: www.leegov.com/resources/newsletters. Follow Lee County Government on Facebook, www.facebook.com/leecountyflbocc.