

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lee Commissioners enact burn ban for all of Lee County

Conditions for ban have been met; county will continue to monitor

Fort Myers, FL, Jan. 20, 2026 – Lee County has enacted a burn ban for unincorporated Lee County and municipalities effective immediately due to increasingly dry conditions throughout Southwest Florida. The Lee Board of County Commissioners voted to enact the ban at a regularly scheduled meeting today.

The county's ordinance bans "outdoor burning ignition sources," including campfires, bonfires and trash burning. Grills for food 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 was a mean average of 637 out of 800 Monday afternoon. 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.

County officials will continue to monitor the drought conditions to determine how long the burn ban will be in place. Check www.leegov.com and Lee County Government's social media to monitor when the ban is rescinded.

To receive updates from Lee County Government, sign up for the newsletter here: www.leegov.com/resources/newsletters and follow on social media: www.leegov.com/socialmedia.