



Levy County Board of County Commissioners

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Press Release: Levy County Declares Local State of Emergency and Issues Countywide Burn Ban

Date of Issue: February 12, 2026

Bronson, Fla. — The Levy County Board of County Commissioners has declared a **local state of emergency** due to worsening drought conditions and an increased risk of wildfire. The action was approved February 12 under Resolution 2026-5. County officials report that prolonged dry weather, drought indicators, and forecasted winds have created conditions where fires can ignite easily and spread rapidly, threatening lives, homes, infrastructure, and natural resources.

What the Burn Ban Means

Effective immediately, the following activities are prohibited throughout Levy County:

- Burning of yard debris, trash, household paper products, bonfires, campfires, warming fires, outdoor fireplaces, land-clearing fires, and cooking fires.
- Any outdoor activity that creates flames or sparks, including fireworks and sparklers.

Allowed Activities (Exemptions)

The resolution provides limited exceptions, including:

- Cooking within an **enclosed** gas or charcoal grill, used according to manufacturer instructions and attended at all times by a responsible adult.
- Agricultural, silvicultural, or land-clearing burns authorized by a valid state permit and supported by appropriate personnel and equipment.
- Properly permitted public fireworks displays conducted by a municipality or the County with fire protection in place.
- Emergency flares used on navigable waters.
- Authorized firefighter training.

Enforcement

Violating the burn ban is a **second-degree misdemeanor** under Florida law. In addition, anyone responsible for an illegal burn may be billed for the cost of emergency response and fire suppression. Levy County Fire Rescue will respond to suspected violations as quickly as possible and take immediate action to control or extinguish any fire.

Duration

The local state of emergency and burn ban will remain in place for **seven days** unless lifted sooner, and may be extended in seven-day increments if hazardous conditions continue. County leaders urge residents to use extreme caution, avoid activities that could spark a fire, and report concerns promptly.



Commissioners

Charlie Kennedy, Vice Chair, District 1
Rock Meeks, District 2
Desiree Mills, District 3
Tim Hodge, Chair, District 4
Johnny Hiers, District 5