

NEWS | Release

LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
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For immediate release – April 17, 2017

Lake County issues countywide burn ban

TAVARES – The Lake County Board of County Commissioners, working closely with the Lake County Public Safety Department, has issued a countywide burn ban due to extremely dry weather conditions increasing the probability of wildfires. In accordance with **County Code 10.5-75**, the ban prohibits all outdoor burning that has not been specifically permitted by the Florida Division of Forestry. This includes burning yard waste or building recreational fires.

The mandatory burn ban will remain in effect until further notice. **Any burning within the county will be considered a second degree misdemeanor, punishable by up to a 60 day imprisonment and up to a \$500 fine.**

Lake County Fire Rescue has joined forces with Eustis, Tavares, Mount Dora, Leesburg, Minneola, Groveland, Clermont and The Villages to establish structural protection strike teams. These agencies have committed resources for immediate deployment should a wildfire threaten property. The strike teams, assigned to the north, central and southern regions of the county, are made up of four engines, a squad and a strike team leader.

“Partnerships are essential in a community such as Lake County to protect all citizens and property owners from dangerous wildfires,” said Lake County Fire Rescue Chief Jim Dickerson. “Citizens are urged to do their part and comply fully with the burn ban until our weather conditions improve and the ban can be safely lifted.”

Under the burn ban, outdoor grilling is permitted, however residents should keep a constant watch for any stray sparks or embers. Additionally, ATVs, dirt bikes, and even lawn mowers can pose a risk for accidental ignition.

An effective way to reduce the possibility of wildfires near homes is to clear underbrush or debris blown down during storms, as dry plants and vegetation create fuel for wildfires.

Residents are urged to immediately report any signs of smoke or fire by calling 911.

The career firefighters of Lake County Fire Rescue protect county residents and visitors in an area covering approximately 1,200 square miles, with nearly 70,000 residences and up to 2,000 commercial properties. For up-to-date news on Lake County Fire Rescue, visit, www.facebook.com/LakeCountyFireRescue, or www.twitter.com/lakefirePIO.

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