

Pondera County  
Resolution #2 – 2024/25  
PONDERA COUNTY STAGE 1 FIRE RESTRICTIONS

WHEREAS, continued high temperatures and low precipitation have occurred within Pondera County during the months of June & July, 2024, resulting in dry fuel conditions and poor soil moisture conditions has contributed to a High wildland fire danger: and

WHEREAS the Pondera County Board of County Commissioners declares that all the private land not under the jurisdiction of the municipalities of state or federal agencies is a high fire hazard area.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Pondera County Commissioners that a County Stage I Fire Restrictions/Open Burning Ban is in effect for all lands in Pondera County, due to HIGH wildland fire danger. The following acts are prohibited until further notice:

1. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire or campfire, unless noted and allowed in the exemptions stated below.
2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least three (3) feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials.
3. All county-issued burning permits are suspended until further notice and no new burning permits will be issued.

**EXEMPTIONS:**

1. Persons using a device solely fueled by liquid petroleum or LPG fuels that can be turned on and off. Such devices can only be used in an area that is barren or cleared of all overhead and surrounding flammable materials within 3 feet of the device.
2. Persons conducting activities in those designated areas where the activity is specifically authorized by written posted notice.
3. Any Federal, State or local officer or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force while in the performance of an official duty.
4. All land within a city or town boundary is exempted.

**VIOLATIONS:**

1. You could be fined up to \$5,000 individually or \$10,000 for an organization and imprisonment up to 6 months for violating restrictions and closures.
2. You can be held liable for all suppression costs and damages if you start a fire.


IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that all activities that might potentially cause a fire shall cease immediately and be prohibited until further notice.

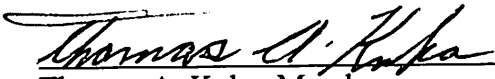
**AN EXEMPTION DOES NOT ABSOLVE AN INDIVIDUAL OR ORGANIZATION FROM LIABILITY OR RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY FIRE STARTED BY THE EXEMPTED ACTIVITY.**


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this resolution becomes effective immediately and shall remain in effect until such time as it may be amended or rescinded by the Board of the Pondera County Commissioners.

Adopted this 24<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2024 as moved by Commissioner Drishinski, seconded by Commissioner Kuka, and passed on a 3-0 vote of the board. Effective on passage and approval.

PONDERA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
Pondera County, Montana

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Morren, Chair

  
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Thomas A. Kuka, Member

Attest:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kody L. Farkell, Clerk & Recorder

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Zane Drishinski, Member

