

SUMTER COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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**SUBJECT:** Consider approval on authorizing Resolution for declaring a local emergency and adopting rules to prohibit all burning and fireworks in Sumter County until further notice (Staff Recommends Approval).

**REQUESTED ACTION:** **Board's option**

**Meeting Type:** Regular Meeting                      **DATE OF MEETING:** 5/9/2017

**CONTRACT:**     N/A    Vendor/Entity: \_\_\_\_\_  
                         Effective Date:    Termination Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
                         Managing Division / Dept:    **Fire & EMS**

**BUDGET IMPACT:**    None  
**FUNDING SOURCE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Type:** N/A                      **EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT:** \_\_\_\_\_

**HISTORY/FACTS/ISSUES:**

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The State of Florida and Sumter County are currently experiencing moderate to severe drought conditions. On April 27th, the average Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) for Sumter County reached 505 on a scale of 0-800 and is currently increasing 5-10 points per day; with normally dry conditions forecast through May. These conditions have led to the drying of vegetation which becomes more susceptible to ignition and lends to the rapid spread of fire. During these dry conditions, the activity of outdoor burning or use of fireworks can easily transmit embers into dry grass which can quickly spread into a rapidly moving wildfire.

Chapter 8, Section 8-1 (b) of the Sumter County Code authorizes the Board of County Commissioners to declare a local emergency under such circumstances and to adopt reasonable rules and regulations to respond to such an emergency and to institute prohibitive measures.

Therefore, to reduce the threat of escaping fires which could result in a threat to public safety, staff recommends the declaration of a state of local emergency in Sumter County, Florida and adopt rules to prohibit all burning and fireworks until further notice by Resolution.

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**Prepared by:**    **Leland Greek**    **Grammarly Check**   



Resolution 2017-20

**May 9, 2017**

2017-20

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SUMTER COUNTY, FLORIDA, DECLARING A LOCAL EMERGENCY AND ADOPTING RULES TO PROHIBIT ALL BURNING AND FIREWORKS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners has been informed and is otherwise aware of extreme drought conditions in the State of Florida and Sumter County, and;

WHEREAS, Chapter 8, Section 8-1 (b) of the Sumter County Code authorizes the Board of County Commissioners to declare a local emergency under such circumstances and to adopt reasonable rules and regulations to respond to such an emergency and to institute prohibitive measures, and;

WHEREAS, the Board hereby finds that the current dry conditions constitute an emergency condition such that the ignition of outdoor fires of any kind or the discharge of any fireworks would create a high probability of fires.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Sumter County, Florida, as follows:

1. There is hereby declared a state of local emergency in Sumter County, Florida as a result of severe drought and the concurrent possibility of forest and brush fires.
2. Based upon the foregoing declaration, the Board of County Commissioners of Sumter County, Florida hereby bans all outdoor burning and fireworks with the exception of control burning or other fire prevention efforts conducted by the Florida Forest Service or any other State Agency. This burning ban shall include, but is not limited to, burning in barrels or other screened containers, or the burning of debris piles, and shall apply to commercial and residential uses.
3. A violation of this resolution shall be a crime punishable by law. This Resolution shall be enforceable by all law enforcement officers.
4. This resolution shall remain in effect until specifically repealed by action of the Board of County Commissioners.

DONE AND RESOLVED THIS 9<sup>th</sup> DAY OF May 2017, at Bushnell, Sumter County, Florida.

ATTEST: GLORIA HAYWARD  
Clerk of Circuit Court

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF SUMTER COUNTY, FLORIDA



Gloria Hayward  
Deputy Clerk

Doug Gilpin  
Chairman