



9-1-1/Emergency Management

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April 6, 2021

To: local press and media outlets
Re: Fire Emergency Declaration

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Andrew Kirking, Emergency Manager, 701-252-9093

A FIRE EMERGENCY HAS BEEN DECLARED FOR STUTSMAN COUNTY

Today (6APR21), the Stutsman County Commission voted unanimously to declare a FIRE EMERGENCY for Stutsman County, ND. The decision was made to enact the emergency declaration due to the existing dry and drought conditions, above average temperatures predicted by the National Weather Service, and below average precipitation in the 90-day forecast.

This emergency declaration will not affect or amend the standing Stutsman County Burn Ordinance (2017-01) against open burning when fire conditions are in the very high or extreme categories, or when a red flag warning has been issued. However, as these critical fire conditions are expected to persist for the foreseeable future, it was determined necessary to more appropriately address the fire danger in the area.

Additionally, with the implementation of a local fire emergency, potential support or funding avenues through the state and federal governments are made available, should conditions continue to degrade. The Stutsman County declarations follows Governor Burgum's state declaration on April 1, 2021.

Please find attached a copy of the signed declaration.

Respectfully,

Andrew C. Kirking
Stutsman County Emergency Manager/911 Communications

Encl:
Fire Emergency Declaration for Stutsman County, North Dakota

**FIRE EMERGENCY DECLARATION
FOR
STUTSMAN COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA**

April 6, 2021

WHEREAS, Stutsman County is experiencing Severe Drought conditions coupled with significant fuel supplies, high winds, low humidity and above normal temperatures resulting in an extreme fire potential; and

WHEREAS, since March 1, 2021, fire departments in Stutsman County have fought more than eighteen separate fires; and

WHEREAS, dry weather conditions are forecasted to continue for the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS, all available resources remain committed to the protection of life and property; and

WHEREAS, the existing conditions make fires a continuing threat to the health, safety, and well-being of the citizens of Stutsman County; and

WHEREAS, the cost of emergency response and inordinate wear on fire-fighting equipment may be far in excess of available County resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Stutsman County Commissioners declares a Fire Emergency for all of Stutsman County including all its incorporated cities except for the City of Jamestown, North Dakota; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners reminds the public of Stutsman County Ordinance 2017-01; "Prohibitions on Open Burning During a Red Flag Warning or while the Stutsman County Fire Danger Rating is Very High or Extreme – Penalty." The ordinance can be found in its entirety at www.co.stutsman.nd.us/departments; Zoning.

The ordinance is in effect 365 days a year, but only restricts burning when the Stutsman County Fire Danger Rating is in the VERY HIGH or EXTREME category and/or a Red Flag Warning has been issued for Stutsman County by the National Weather Service. The ordinance includes all of Stutsman County and its incorporated cities except the City of Jamestown, North Dakota which has its own open burning ordinance.

ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO WILLFULLY VIOLATES THIS ORDINANCE IS GUILTY OF A CLASS B MISDEMEANOR [NDCC 11-09.1-13 AND 12.1-32-02(6)] PUNISHABLE BY A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF A \$1500.00 FINE, 30 DAYS IMPRISONMENT, OR BOTH.

DATED this 6th day of April 2021, at Stutsman County, North Dakota.



Jessica Alonge, Interim Auditor/COO
Stutsman County



Mark Klose, Chairman
Stutsman County Commission