

FIRE EMERGENCY & BURN RESTRICTIONS DECLARATION

For
Wells County North Dakota
August 17, 2026

WHEREAS, Wells County North Dakota has and is expected to continue to endure periods of dry conditions with significant vegetative fuels available; and

WHEREAS, all available resources remain committed to protecting life and property; and

WHEREAS, Wells County has either sustained or been threatened with rural fires in the past and the local Emergency Management Office has been in consultation with local fire departments; and

WHEREAS, the impact of fires could threaten the health, well-being, and safety of the citizens in Wells County; and

WHEREAS, the cost of response, inordinate equipment wear/tear and fire damages may be beyond available Wells County resources; and

WHEREAS, the Wells County Commission wishes to regulate activities within the Wells County which pose a potential hazard for such loss, should the present weather conditions continue.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Wells County Commissioners declare a Fire Emergency and Burn Restrictions effective when the North Dakota Rangeland Fire Danger Rating is in the **(Very High or Extreme Rating and/or Red Flag Warning)** has been issued for Wells County, North Dakota, effective immediately until rescinded.

What's Included: No Burning When Activity Matches Below <i>Burning is Prohibited if the Fire Index is in Extreme Category or a Red Flag Warning has been Issued by NWS (ND Administrative Code – Title 33.1 Article 15 Chapter 4)</i>	
Low	Burning allowed in Wells County. Please use caution when burning. Have a water source nearby and never leave a fire unattended. Please notify your local Fire Department of any controlled burns.
Moderate	Burning allowed in Wells County. Please use caution when burning. Have a water source nearby and never leave a fire unattended. Please notify your local Fire Department of any controlled burns.
High	Burning allowed in Wells County. Please use caution when burning. Have a water source nearby and never leave a fire unattended. Please notify your local Fire Department of any controlled burns.
Very High	NO Burning allowed in Wells County. This includes: Campfires not in commercial rings or in an outdoor fireplace, the ignition of fireworks (aerial and ground), controlled burns (i.e., wood piles, tumbleweeds, tree piles, etc.), cropland/agriculture, or garbage/pits.
Extreme	NO Burning allowed in Wells County. This includes: Campfires not in commercial rings or in an outdoor fireplace, the ignition of fireworks (aerial and ground), controlled burns (i.e., wood piles, tumbleweeds, tree piles, etc.), cropland/agriculture, or garbage/pits. Gas fireplaces and Chimineas Patio (Gas)
Red Flag Warning	NO Burning allowed in Wells County. Campfires not in commercial rings or in an outdoor fireplace, the ignition of fireworks (aerial and ground), controlled burns (i.e., wood piles, tumbleweeds, tree piles, etc.), cropland/agriculture, or garbage/pits. Gas fireplaces and Chimineas Patio (Gas)

**THE PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF THIS BURN RESTRICTION IS A CLASS B MISDEMEANOR
(NDCC 37.17.1-10.1: MAXIMUM SENTENCE OF 30 DAYS IN JAIL AND A \$1,500.00 FINE).**

This declaration is for all of Wells County. If you have any questions, please contact your local Fire Chief or Wells County Emergency Management.

The Daily Fire Danger Rating is available at the following website: <https://ndresponse.gov>

DATED at Fessenden North Dakota this 17th Day of August, 2026



Dennis Dockter
Wells County Commission



Daniel Stutlien, Auditor
Wells County