Yavapai County Institutes County Wide Fire Ban

At the regular Board of Supervisors meeting on June 3, 2020 the Board voted to ratify resolution No. 2032 and approved the Interim Fire Ban Order enacted on June 1, 2020, across all of Yavapai County's fire zones, in accordance with Yavapai County Ordinance 2012-1, Section VI and A.R.S.§11-251(63).

“The potential for devastating fires in Yavapai County exists and this fire ban is just one of the tools we utilize to prevent or reduce the number fires in Yavapai County,” said Yavapai County Board of Supervisors Chairman Craig Brown. He went on to explain, “There are signs posted around the county reminding people of the fire ban and you can get an exemption by calling the Yavapai County Office of Emergency Management. It is important to remember that many of the fires we see along our roads are caused by trucks pulling trailers with chains hanging down low enough to drag on the road and cause sparks.”

This determination to institute this fire ban is based upon the implementation of fire restrictions by the following jurisdictions: Southwestern Region National Forests, Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management, Bureau of Land Management, and Bureau of Reclamation, which have previously imposed fire restrictions. Additionally, concerns of a trending high Energy Release Component (ERC), decreasing fuel moisture levels, and multiple Red Flag days, all contribute to concerns for the well-being and health of suppression personnel, and a high-risk potential for large fire events.

This fire ban will stay in effect until the risk has diminished and there is agency consensus that restrictions may be lifted.
RESOLUTION NO. 2032

RESOLUTION IMPOSING A FIRE PROHIBITION ORDER FOR YAVAPAI COUNTY ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LANDS IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF YAVAPAI COUNTY AND URGING CAUTION IN ALL USES OF FIRE DURING THE PERIOD OF EXTREME FIRE DANGER

WHEREAS, a fire emergency determination has been declared by the Yavapai County Emergency Management Officer, in accordance with Yavapai County Ordinance 2012-1, Section V, and,

WHEREAS, the Chairman of the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors has placed an interim order prohibiting unauthorized use of fire, to protect the public, infrastructure, and environment, in accordance with Yavapai County Ordinance 2012-1, Section VI, and A.R.S. § 11-251(63), and,

WHEREAS, Southwestern Region National Forests in the states of Arizona and New Mexico, Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management, Bureau of Land Management, and Bureau of Reclamation, have imposed fire restrictions effective on April 22nd and May 12th, 2020, and

WHEREAS, the restrictions are due to concerns with the COVID 19 pandemic, a trending high Energy Release Component (ERC), decreasing fuel moisture levels, and multiple Red Flag days; all of which have contributed to concerns for the well-being and health of suppression personnel, low relative humidity levels, and a high-risk potential for large fire events, and

WHEREAS, this determination includes the following Fire Ban Zones: Northern, Central, Eastern, and Southern Zones of Yavapai County, which include the following cities and towns; Prescott, Prescott Valley, Dewey Humboldt, Mayer, Cordes Junction, Black Canyon City, Congress, North Wickenburg, Pocohs Valley, Yarnell, Wilhoit, Cottonwood, Sedona, Camp Verde, and unincorporated areas herein and,

WHEREAS, the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors, has in its regularly scheduled meeting, on June 3, 2020, ratified and approved a Yavapai County Fire Prohibition Order in accordance with provisions of Yavapai County Ordinance 2012-1, Section VI,
WHEREAS, the immediate operation of the provisions of this Resolution is necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety of the County, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, and this Resolution is enacted as an emergency measure and will be in full force and effect after its passage, adoption and approval by the Board of Supervisors.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that pursuant to Yavapai County Ordinance 2012-1:

Subject to those exceptions set forth in this Order, and Yavapai County Ordinance 2012-1, Section V, all open fires and campfires on private and public land in the unincorporated areas of Yavapai County are hereby prohibited until such time as the Emergency Management Coordinator of Yavapai County determines that the extreme fire danger has subsided; and

Pursuant to Yavapai County Ordinance 2011-1, Section VII, fireworks and other pyrotechnic displays are expressly prohibited, unless such displays are approved in writing in advance by the jurisdictional fire agency and a fireworks permit has been approved by the Board of Supervisors; and

Petroleum-fueled stoves or lanterns and enclosed charcoal barbeque grills operated in residential yards are exempted from this prohibition, but the public is urged to exercise extreme caution in the use of such stove, lanterns, or grills; and

The public is urged to strictly obey any and all federal, state, or local fire restrictions currently in force as well as any such restrictions as may be enacted in the future; and

The fire restriction set forth in this Order shall be subject to any exceptions established by current or future Federal, State, or Local fire restrictions and shall not apply on those public lands on which fire restrictions have not been imposed; and

Regardless of any exceptions to the fire restrictions contained in this Order, or any exceptions contained in fire restrictions enacted by other entities, the public is hereby urged to use particular caution in all uses of fire during this period of extreme fire danger.

Approved and Adopted by the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors this 3rd day of June 2020.

Craig L. Brown, Chairman

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Yavapai County

Our Mission: "Yavapai County will serve and protect its citizens through efficient management of all its resources to enhance the lives of those we serve."

For information about Yavapai County Community Health Services or food recalls, please contact David McAtee at 928-442-5509 or email David.McAtee@yavapai.us. Or visit www.Yavapai.us

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