

Divide County Emergency Services
PO Box 49
Crosby, ND 58730
701-965-6361 (office)
701-571-9218 (cell)



FIRE EMERGENCY & BURN RESTRICTIONS DECLARATION
For
Divide County, North Dakota
(April 7, 2026)

WHEREAS, Divide 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, Divide County, North Dakota 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 Divide County; and

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Divide 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Extreme Rating and/or Red Flag Warning)* has been issued for Divide County, North Dakota, effective immediately until rescinded.

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 includes the cities of Divide County.

The Daily Fire Danger Rating is available at the following website https://www.dividecountynd.org/

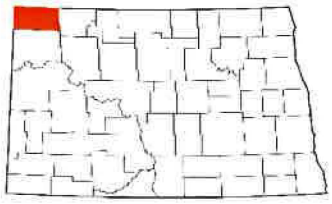
DATED at 8:30 Am, North Dakota this 7 day of April 2026 *(Month, Year)*

Rodney Johnson
Rodney Johnson
Divide County Commissioner

Gayle Jastrzebski
Gayle Jastrzebski
Divide County Auditor



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Divide County 2026 Burn Restrictions

Burn Restrictions for Divide County for 2026 (valid until repealed by County Commission).

Vehicles (motorized/wheeled) are defined as including pickups, cars, 4 wheelers, motorcycles and side x sides and must stay on established roadways during Extreme or Red Flag on Divide County's Fire Danger Rating. Essential includes farmers, ranchers, and those who travel off-road for industrial/business requirements and all shall carry fire extinguishers and normal firefighting equipment (shovels, water, etc).

The use of controlled devices (e.g. personal cooking/grilling devices) is allowed if they are located on a hard, non-organic surface at least 15 feet away from vegetation and a fire extinguisher or water is available on-site. Controlled devices include items such as gas, charcoal, wood-fired/pellet grills, gas patio fireplaces and chimneys, gas camp stoves, and smokers/pellet grills.

Campfires (even if they are in a fire ring) are *not* permitted when Divide County's Fire Danger is Very High, Extreme or Red Flag

OPEN BURNING: No person may cause, conduct, or permit open burning of refuse, trade waste, or other combustible material, except as provided for in ND Century code section 33.1-15-04-02 or 33.1-15-10-02, and no person may conduct, cause, or permit the conduct of a salvage operation by open burning. Approval must be given by the local fire chief.

2026 Divide County Fire Ban

Fire Type	Low	Moderate	High	Very High	Extreme	Red Flag
Controlled Burns (Wood piles, tree piles) Must Notify DCSO						
Crop Land/Ag Land - Must notify DCSO						
Garbage/Pit Burning (Must notify DCSO)						
Campfires (must have stone or metal ring)						
Outdoor fireplace - Must be on non-flammable surface with a 15' buffer and means to extinguish the fire				1	1	1
Gas/Electric/Charcoal/Pellet Grills or Smokers - Must be on non-flammable surface with a 10' buffer and means to extinguish the fire				1	1	1
Fireworks						
Outdoor Smoking (in designated areas)					1	1
Non-essential off-road Motorized travel						

1 -Only if safety requirements are met

BURN EXEMPTIONS Burning will be allowed despite the Divide County Fire Danger Rating only under the following set of conditions: **You must contact the Fire Chief for your District in which the burning will take place for approval.**

*Immediate agricultural necessity – Required to prep cropland for planting.
*Must have a fire break prior to starting.
*Must have tractor and tillage implement on site.
*Must coordinate to have fire suppression readily available.
*Winds must be below 15 mph.
*Temperature and humidity restrictions as per Fire Chief.
*Hours of burning restrictions set by the fire department.
***Trash pits, brush piles, hay bales, pastures would not qualify as they can wait for lower fire danger ratings.**
*The responding fire department chief or his designated representative is the approving authority.
*The requirement remains to notify the local sheriff or emergency manager so they can inform State Emergency Communications Center (911 dispatch).