McKenzie County

2026 FIRE EMERGENCY BURN RESTRICTIONS

WHEREAS, McKenzie County, North Dakota can have very dry conditions with significant fuel loadings available; and

WHEREAS, McKenzie County, North Dakota has sustained or been threatened with rural fires in the past and the McKenzie County Department of Emergency Services has been in consultation with local fire departments; and

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

WHEREAS, the cost of response, inordinate equipment wear, and fire damages may be in excess of County resources.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of McKenzie County Commissioners declare a Fire Emergency Bum Restrictions which include the following:

1. *TOTAL ban on open / controlled burning of anything to include garbage, campfires, aerial / ground fireworks, tree / wood piles and / or combustibles of any kind.*
    a. *EXCEPTION: Responsible use of propane / gas / electric grills used in a safe manner well away from any combustible materials.*
2. *Vehicles (motorized / wheeled) including pickups, cars, utv's, atv's and motorcycles MUST stay on established (paved / gravel) roadways.*
    a. *EXCEPTION: Farmers, ranchers, landowners or those who must travel off-road for business / industrial reasons should carry a shovel, fire extinguisher and / or basic firefighting equipment to include water.*
3. *Smoking is restricted to the inside of vehicles, buildings or designated areas clear of any dry vegetation or combustible materials.*
4. *These restrictions are valid until further notice.*

Pursuant to NDCC 31-17.1-10.I, Any Individual who willfully violates the bum restrictions is guilty of a Class B Misdemeanor (Maximum sentence of 30 days in jail and or a $1500 fine), and restitution of fire suppression costs may be sought.

Dated this 4th day of August 2026, McKenzie County North Dakota.

Howdy Lawlar, Chairman
McKenzie County Commission

OFFICIAL SEAL
McKENZIE COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA