

Commissioner's Order – Restricting Open Fires in Portions of the State

Date: June 17, 2021

Authorities: *Minnesota Statutes*, sections 88.10, 88.16, 88.17, and 88.22.

BACKGROUND

WHEREAS:

The entire state of Minnesota is abnormally dry and 46 percent of the state is affected by moderate drought; and Weather conditions have contributed to significant drying of forests, brushlands and grasslands of the state resulting in fuel conditions conducive to wildfire hazards; and

The north-central portion of the state, covering portions of Beltrami and all of Cass, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Itasca, Morrison, Todd and Wadena counties, is experiencing particularly high fire risk indices reflecting conditions that allow fires to start and spread easily; and

Many areas in the north-central portion of the state have had very limited measurable precipitation over the past several weeks, and extended forecasting predicts continued hot and dry conditions; and

Fires in dispersed and remote areas hinder fire suppression efforts; and

Additional out-of-state resources to assist in fire suppression are limited; and

Partner agencies within the Minnesota Incident Command System (MNICS) support restricting open fires in the north-central portion of Minnesota and have done so within their jurisdictions.

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, pursuant to authority vested in me by law, including *Minnesota Statutes*, sections 88.10, 88.16, 88.17, and 88.22, that for the period commencing at 12:01 am, June 18, 2021, for the southern portion of Beltrami and all of Cass, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Itasca, Morrison, Todd and Wadena counties (Exhibit A) and continuing until revoked or modified by further order of the Commissioner:

1. No burning permits may be issued except for special exceptions issued by the state or federal agency having suppression responsibilities; and
2. Campfires or recreational fires are allowed only in a designated fire receptacle designed for such use and associated with a residence, dwelling, campground, or resort; and
3. No use of fireworks is allowed outside of municipalities; use of fireworks within a municipality remains under the municipality's control.

Exhibit A: Counties subject to this Commissioner's Order.



Sarah Strommen, Commissioner

06/17/21

Date: _____

Exhibit A: Counties subject to this Commissioner's Order.

