## PRESS RELEASE

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Sumter County Prohibits Outdoor Burning and Fireworks Due to Elevated Wildfire Risk

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Sumter County, FL – Due to ongoing drought conditions and increased wildfire danger, the Sumter County Board of County Commissioners approved a resolution prohibiting all outdoor burning and fireworks until further notice.

Florida is currently experiencing dry and windy weather, which significantly increases the risk of wildfires. Under these conditions, dry vegetation becomes highly flammable, and even a small spark or ember can ignite a rapidly spreading fire.

This prohibition includes:

- Yard waste and debris burning
- Recreational fires such as bonfires, campfires, and fire pits

The ban does not include cooking fires in contained and attended gas or charcoal grills, nor does it prohibit the Florida Forest Service from conducting and permitting controlled burning.

"These measures are essential for protecting our residents, homes, and natural areas," said Fire Chief Rob Hanson. "We're asking the community to do their part by avoiding any activity that could spark a wildfire during this critical period."

Residents are encouraged to stay informed by visiting <u>www.sumtercountyfl.gov</u>.

Together, we can reduce the risk of wildfires and keep our communities safe.

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