

**WASHINGTON COUNTY EMERGENCY DECLARATION ORDER 22-01
AN ORDER AND DECLARATION REGARDING OPEN BURNING**

WHEREAS, in accordance with Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, authorizing political subdivisions to take whatever prudent actions is necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community; and

WHEREAS, a moderate drought exists in the Florida Panhandle with rainfall deficits exceeding four (4) inches.

WHEREAS, weather conditions in the area over the next three (3) days will continue to promote rapid fire growth; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board of County Commissioners authorizes the Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Board to issue Emergency Declaration Order 22-01, dated March 5, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of Florida has declared Executive Order 22-54 for the Bay County fires, Washington County declares Emergency Order 22-01 to take actions that continue to be necessary to protect the public; and

WHEREAS, precautions are needed to protect the lives and property, the environment, and the general welfare of the citizens of Washington County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, based on current conditions, the Board bans the burning of debris and trash.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED THAT THE FOLLOWING IS PROHIBITED IN WASHINGTON COUNTY, FLORIDA:

1. Open burning, except (a) outdoor grills used in preparing food; and (b) commercial land clearing where on-site inspection and approval has been granted by the Florida Forest Service, on a case-by-case basis, and it is determined that there will be sufficient fire suppression equipment and personnel on-site.
2. The sale, use and/or discharge of items listed in Florida Statutes 791.01(4) (fireworks) using explosive or combustible compounds.
3. The use or discharge of flares.
4. The use of outdoor burning devices, excluding attended and monitored barbeque or cooking equipment.
5. Any otherwise lawful outdoor burning, such as lawn, debris, or trash burning.
6. The parking of vehicles with catalytic converters in high grassy areas.
7. The disposal of matches or cigarettes, etc., except in proper disposal containers.

Exception. The use of an air curtain incinerator is allowed for the combustion of land clearing debris or natural vegetative debris, provided the incinerator has a Florida Department of Environmental Protection air permit or has been exempted from air permitting by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. If an air curtain

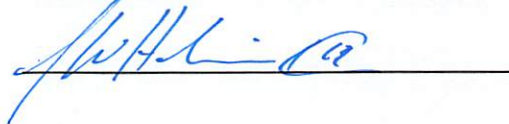
incinerator has been exempted from air permitting by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, prior authorization to use the incinerator must be obtained from the Florida Forest Service. Prior to use of the air curtain incinerator, the user shall notify Washington County Emergency Management of the date and time of the burn.

Any person violating this Order or any person who willfully fails or refuses to comply with the order or orders of any duly authorized law enforcement officer or personnel charged with the responsibility for the enforcement of such Order shall, upon conviction, therefore, be punished in accordance with Florida Statutes Section 252.50.

If any provision of this Order is invalidated by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions of the Order, which shall continue to have the full force and effect of law.

Emergency Declaration Order 22-01 shall remain in effect until the Florida Forest Service determines weather conditions are favorable for open burning.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WASHINGTON COUNTY, FLORIDA



ATTEST:

