



MEMORANDUM

Date: 5/20/2024
To: Hector Flores, County Administrator
From: Jason Fair, Public Safety Director
Subject: Request for Burn Ban

The following is a recommendation and request for implementation of a county wide Burn Ban, based on the conditions as outlined below and the potential impacts thereof. Because of these circumstances and the extended forecast, I am requesting the Board of County Commissioners consider this recommendation during the May 28th meeting .

- There exists potential for extreme fire behavior resulting from the current drought conditions in Charlotte County and throughout our region
- The Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) is 584 (the index ranges from 0-800) today and increasing daily between 5-10 points.
- Charlotte County is currently among the three driest counties in the state, all of which are in our region

This request is based on the factors as outlined above and is made in anticipation of the impacts presented by a wildland and/or urban interface fire within such extreme conditions. Dry and windy forecasts mean fires could start with little effort, burn with greater intensity, and spread quickly. Additionally, the increased fuel load associated with a post hurricane environment further exacerbates the potential. This kind of fire behavior and the resulting conditions could risk public health and property, as well as, put a significant strain on Public Safety resources.