



MEMORANDUM

Date: 4/22/2026
To: Emily Lewis, Deputy County Administrator
From: Matthew McElroy, Public Safety Director/ Fire Chief
Subject: Request for Burn Ban

The following is a recommendation for implementing a countywide Burn Ban due to the conditions outlined below and the growing risks they present. Given the current situation and the extended weather forecast, Charlotte County Public Safety is asking the Board of County Commissioners to consider this recommendation during the April 28th Regular and Land Use Meeting.

- **Fire danger continues to rise** as drought conditions worsen across Charlotte County and the surrounding region.
- **The Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) continues to rise**, and is expected to climb with each new measurement.
- **Charlotte County has experienced multiple significant brush fires within the past two weeks and remains very dry**, placing us at heightened risk.

This request comes after careful review of the current environmental conditions and the potential impacts of a wildland or urban-interface fire under such extreme dryness. With the forecast calling for continued dry and windy weather, fires could ignite easily, burn hotter and faster, and spread with very little warning.

Compounding this risk is the increased fuel load left throughout the county following recent hurricanes. Together, these factors create conditions where a single spark could lead to a fast-moving, high-intensity fire that threatens lives, property, and the overall well-being of our community. Such events would also place a significant burden on our Public Safety resources.

For these reasons, we respectfully recommend moving forward with a countywide Burn Ban to help safeguard our residents and reduce the likelihood of a preventable emergency.