



POTTER COUNTY FIRE -RESCUE
OFFICE OF FIRE MARSHAL

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For Immediate Release

July 2, 2026

Effective July 1st, 2026, a disaster declaration was ordered for Potter County. This was at the request of my office, and there has been some confusion that I want to try to clarify. Potter County had been under a burn ban from 04/13/2026, and on 06/08/26 the order prohibiting certain fireworks was enacted. With rain fall having occurred, we no longer met the conditions required to remain in a burn ban, therefore after speaking with PCFR command staff, I spoke with Judge Tanner advising that we no longer met the requirements for the burn ban. Therefore, the ban was lifted, and with that the prohibition of certain fireworks expired with it on June 16th.

While continuing to monitor conditions closely, due to our extreme fire season and catastrophic losses to our communities, we have

moved back into conditions for a burn ban. The conditions continue to worsen. At my request on July 1st, Judge Tanner issued the declaration of disaster to enact restrictions on open burning. Per statutes we cannot restrict the welding, cooking, and warmth type fires as they are basic needs. This declaration is what is allowed per statute until a burn ban can be enacted by county commissioners.

On July 7th I will be meeting with Potter County Commissioner's to request a burn ban to be enacted.

Unfortunately, I cannot restrict firework sales, possession or use of other than what was previously enacted with the sticks and fins type. We currently do not meet the requirements to enact that prohibition. I am not able to restrict people from the city coming to the county to use fireworks as much as I would like to after the catastrophic losses our county, our neighbors and our families have endured this year not only from our most recent fire through Eagle Tree and Bishop Estates but also the February 17th fire that ran from our west county line thru Valle de Oro and several ranches to N 287 and the wildfires we have had in between.

I ask that not only our residents but anyone coming out of the city to Potter County, please reconsider and if you do come to Potter County to use fireworks please be safe, have a water source, a fire extinguisher, use a clear area without grasses or vegetation.

Mary J. Willis

Fire Marshal

Potter County