

**GULF COUNTY EMERGENCY ORDER 20-03**

**AN ORDER AND DECLARATION FOR A BURN BAN FOR ALL OF GULF COUNTY  
UNDER LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY DURING THE CURRENT CONDITIONS  
AND THE COVID-19 LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY**

**WHEREAS**, the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners hereby find that circumstances present within Gulf County create a public safety hazard that would be exacerbated by outdoor burning; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor of the State of Florida issued Executive Order 20-52, declaring that a state of emergency exists throughout the State of Florida due to the spread of COVID-19 in the State and its imminent threat to the health and welfare of Florida citizens;

**WHEREAS**, the Executive Order, in accordance with Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, authorizes political subdivisions to take whatever prudent action that is necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community; and

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 252, Florida Statutes authorizes political subdivisions to take all necessary action and issue any necessary orders to protect human life; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 18, 2020, by Resolution, the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners issued a Declaration of Local State of Emergency regarding the threat of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 2, 2020 by Emergency Declaration Order, the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners continued its Declaration of Local State of Emergency regarding the threat of COVID-19 and implemented several additional measures and orders for the protection, health and safety of Gulf County residents including but not limited to an immediate burn ban for the entire Gulf County until further notification; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, it is **ORDERED** that outdoor burning is prohibited in all of Gulf County as follows:

**1. Actions prohibited:**

- a. A person violates this order if he/she burns any combustible material in an outdoor area.
- b. A person violates this order if he/she engages in any outdoor activity which could allow flames or sparks that could result in a fire.

**2. Enforcement:**

- a. Upon notification of suspected outdoor burning the Gulf County Volunteer Fire Departments shall respond to the scene and take immediate measures to contain and/or extinguish the fire.
- b. As soon as possible, Gulf County Sherriff's Department shall respond to the scene to investigate the nature of the fire. The deputy will request immediate compliance with this order.

**3. This order does not apply to the following outdoor burning activities:**

- a. Firefighting training
- b. Burn operations approved by the Florida Forest Service

All outdoor burning of yard trash, household paper products, bonfires, campfires, warming fires, outdoor fire places, chimneys, and cooking fires within said jurisdictions is prohibited unless: 1) authorized by the Florida Forest Service; 2) for cooking of food exclusively within a contained gas or charcoal grill.

The setting of fires to any grass, brush or forest covered land, unless authorized by the Florida Forest Service, shall constitute a violation of the law.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED**, that the purpose of this order is the mitigation of the public safety hazard posed by wildfires during the current dry weather conditions and the limited first responders and human resources to combat potential fires during COVID-19 pandemic by curtailing the practice of outdoor burning. Accordingly, this order shall expire when conditions are again deemed safe, upon such date as determined by the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners in conjunction with the Gulf County Fire Service.

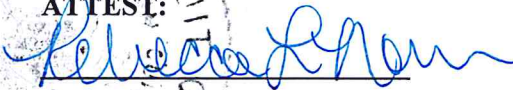
**Done and Ordered this 2<sup>nd</sup> Day of April, 2020**

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA**



**Sandy Quinn, Chairman**

**ATTEST:**



**Rebecca Norris, Clerk of Court**

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

**By**



**Jeremy T.M. Novak, Gulf County Attorney**

