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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: July 14, 2026

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Due to low fuel moisture and low relative humidity, Madison Fire Department, in conjunction with the Board of County Commissioners of Madison County, has declared a temporary open fire ban. This temporary ban will be in place from July 15, 2026 until September 30, 2026, unless rescinded or extended by the Madison County Board of County Commissioners.

This ban prohibits all forms of open burning and other fire-related activities, including campfires, fireworks, burning debris, and open-flame operations. Residential barbecue grills and enclosed fireplaces are allowed on your own property. Madison County Sheriff's Office is responsible for enforcing the ordinance, with violations subject to fines ranging from \$100 to \$300 per offense, increasing for repeat violations, and offenders may also be held financially responsible for all fire suppression costs and any resulting damages.

"Madison Fire Department has the expectation this burn ban will heighten the public's awareness of the extreme fire conditions we are in," said Chief Corey Child. "We are hopeful that in following the restrictions outlined in this ban, that it will lessen our chances of another large fire in Madison County. We have already seen how the low fuel moisture and low relative humidity support fire ignition and spread."

Please see the adopted ordinance for detailed information.

According to the National Interagency Fire Center, the National Preparedness Level has been set at level 4 (level 5 is the highest level of activation). This is due to a significant increase in fire activity in multiple geographic areas, as well as an increased competition for shared resources nationwide.

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