



Stanley County Emergency Management

PO Box 595, Fort Pierre, South Dakota

Dustin Baxter – Stanley County Emergency Manager 

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Stanley County Emergency Management

Stanley County, South Dakota

March 25, 2026

Stanley County Implements Countywide Burn Ban Effective March 26

Stanley County Emergency Management shares important news: the Stanley County Commission has passed Resolution 2026-09, initiating a countywide burn ban because of the current and very serious fire risk. The ban will start at 8:00 a.m. on March 26, 2026, and stay in effect until conditions improve and the Stanley County Commission decides to lift it. Right now, Stanley County is experiencing very dry conditions due to lack of winter moisture, along with plenty of remaining vegetation that could fuel wildfires. This situation is similar to recent burn bans under Ordinance No. 2016-01 and is made more concerning by the fact that neighboring counties are facing similar risks. Recent large wildfires in western South Dakota and Nebraska have also stretched valuable wildfire response resources thin. “This burn ban is an important step to protect lives, property, and our emergency responders,” said Dustin Baxter from Stanley County Emergency Management. “With the current conditions and limited firefighting help, even a small fire could get out of control very quickly.” Both the Fort Pierre Fire Chief and the Four Corners Fire Chief, along with the Stanley County Sheriff, are supportive of this temporary burn ban.

What Is Prohibited

Under Resolution 2026-09, **open burning is prohibited**. Open burning includes, but is not limited to:

- Campfires and warming fires
- Prescribed burning of fields, rows, or wild lands
- Burning of trash or debris
- Fireworks

Allowed Exceptions

The following are **allowed unless a Red Flag Warning or Extreme Fire Danger is issued by the National Weather Service for Stanley County**, at which point they are also prohibited:

- Burn barrels with a **minimum 30-foot clear zone**
- Permanent fire pits or fire grates

Fires contained within **liquid-fueled or gas-fueled stoves and fireplaces inside buildings** are not affected by the ban.

Stanley County Emergency Management urges all residents to use extreme caution, comply fully with the burn ban, and remain aware of changing fire conditions.

Violations of the burn ban may result in enforcement action pursuant to county ordinance and state law.

For updates or additional information, residents are encouraged to monitor the Stanley County Website and Social Media or contact **Stanley County Emergency Management**.

RESOLUTION 2026-09

BURN BAN

WHEREAS, Stanley County has Ordinance No. 2016-01 FOR THE REGULATION OF FIRE HAZARDS IN STANLEY COUNTY; and

WHEREAS, Stanley County has a substantial amount of remaining vegetation this spring, increasing the potential fuel for a fire; and

WHEREAS, Stanley County is currently experiencing dry conditions due to insufficient moisture during the winter and extending into spring. These circumstances, coupled with ongoing weather patterns, have resulted in the County being under a burn ban by Ordinance No. 2016-01 for more than one day in a row. Additionally, neighboring counties' conditions are similar to ours, thereby increasing the risk of significant, rapidly spreading fires that could impact Stanley County.

WHEREAS, Stanley County is aware of several recent large wildfires in the western half of the state and in Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Stanley County is aware that the number of state and federal resources available in the state to assist with wildfires is limited because of the current fires in South Dakota and Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Stanley County is dedicated to taking steps to protect the health and safety of all residents of the County and all property within the County, and

WHEREAS, the Stanley County Commission has consulted with local fire officials and law enforcement officials in regard to the severity of this issue; and

WHEREAS, for purposes of this Resolution, "open burning" shall be defined as any outdoor fire, including but not limited to campfires, warming fires, charcoal grill fires, or the prescribed burning of fence rows, fields, wild lands, trash, and debris. Fireworks will also be considered open burning and be banned by this resolution. This resolution excludes fires contained within liquid-fueled or gas-fueled stoves, fireplaces within all buildings, charcoal grills and fire pits at private residences, burn barrels with a minimum 30-foot clear zone, and permanent fire pits or fire grates located on supervised developed picnic grounds and campgrounds.

WHEREAS, burn barrels, fire pits, or fire grates are not excluded from this Resolution as listed above and are banned when a "Red Flag" or "Extreme Fire Danger" is issued by the National Weather Service for Stanley County; and

WHEREAS, conditions of extreme fire hazard now exist in Stanley County;

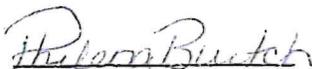
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Stanley County Commission enact this resolution on an emergency basis and impose a ban to prohibit or restrict open burning in order to protect the public health and safety pursuant to South Dakota Codified Law 7-8-20(18); and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the burn ban will be effective 8:00 A.M., March 26th, 2026; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the ban will be in place until fire conditions improve and the Commission takes action to remove the ban.

Dated this 24th day of March 2026.

ATTEST:


Philena Burtch, Auditor


Dana Iversen, Chairman