

Commissioner's Order – Restricting Open Fires in Portions of the State

Date: June 12, 2023

Authorities: *Minnesota Statutes*, sections 88.10, 88.16, 88.17, and 88.22.

BACKGROUND

WHEREAS:

Over 72 percent of the state of Minnesota is abnormally dry and 12 percent of the state is affected by moderate drought; and

Weather conditions have contributed to significant drying of forests, brushlands and grasslands of the state resulting in fuel conditions conducive to wildfire hazards; and

The northeastern portion of the state spanning Carlton, Cook, Lake, and St. Louis counties has unusually low fuel moistures and is experiencing particularly high fire danger indices, reflecting conditions that allow fires to start and spread easily; and

The dry fuels in northeastern Minnesota create a high potential for ignition and the high percentage of conifers in that part of Minnesota increases the potential for fires to spread, particularly in areas where there is limited or poor access for wildfire suppression response; and

Long-term fire risk indices and the extended weather forecast predicts continued hot and dry conditions; and

Fires in remote areas have longer wildfire suppression response times and increased potential for catastrophic spread; and

Partner agencies within the Minnesota Incident Command System (MNICS) support restricting open fires in the northeastern portion of Minnesota.

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, pursuant to authority vested in me by law, including *Minnesota Statutes*, sections 88.10, 88.16, 88.17, and 88.22, that for the period commencing at 12:01 a.m. on June 14, 2023 and continuing until revoked or modified by further order of the Commissioner, for Carlton, Cook, Lake, and St. Louis counties, excluding tribal lands (Exhibit A):

1. No burning permits may be issued except for special exceptions issued by the state or federal agency having suppression responsibilities; and
2. Campfires or recreational fires are allowed only in a designated fire receptacle designed for such use and associated with a residence, dwelling, campground, or resort; and

3. No use of fireworks is allowed outside of municipalities; use of fireworks within a municipality remains under the municipality's control.

Exhibit A: Counties subject to this Commissioner's Order.



Sarah Strommen, Commissioner

Date: June 12, 2023

Exhibit A: Counties subject to this Commissioner's Order.

