



State of  
**North Dakota**  
*Office of the Governor*

**Jack Dalrymple**  
*Governor*

**EXECUTIVE ORDER 2015-02**

I Jack Dalrymple, Governor of the State of North Dakota, by the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim a fire emergency exists for the entire State of North Dakota to include the Tribal Nations within the State.

**WHEREAS**, due to extremely dry conditions, burn ban and fire restrictions declared throughout the State, Fire Weather Watches and Red Flag Warnings issued by the National Weather Service, unseasonably warm temperatures, low humidity and high winds are impacting North Dakota, and are expected to continue; and

**WHEREAS**, fire weather conditions have prompted 15 counties and one Tribal Nation to issue fire emergency declarations, implement burn bans and/or other fire restrictions; and

**WHEREAS**, dry conditions, unseasonably warm temperatures and high winds have fueled numerous fires throughout the State requiring multi-agency response to fight wildland fires; and

**WHEREAS**, fire services have already provided fire suppression response to save lives, protect property, private industry and natural resources from an abnormally high number of wildland fires and burned acreage; and

**WHEREAS**, since March 13, 2015, the National Weather Service has issued five Fire Weather Watches and five Red Flag Warnings; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Weather Service documented below average snowfall and precipitation across the State with above normal temperatures, leaving many natural fuels, such as tall grasses, very dry and standing vertical, rather than flat as is typical for this time of year, making them more susceptible to the rapid spread of wildland fires; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Weather Service temperature outlook for April through August 2015 favors above normal temperatures across North Dakota, with precipitation outlooks favoring near normal precipitation across the State, except in the east where below normal precipitation is favored into early summer; and

**WHEREAS**, high temperatures in combination with continued dry vegetation, low humidity and high winds increase the growth potential of wildfires, which may be beyond the resource capabilities of local fire departments and area emergency service providers; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Drought Monitor dated March 24, 2015, indicates drought conditions ranging from abnormally dry to moderate drought conditions across the State.

**NOW; THEREFORE,** I order a statewide burn ban in effect for areas in the *North Dakota Fire Danger Rating* designated as High, Very High, or Extreme, and/or when a Red Flag Warning has been issued for an area. Additionally, burning will be allowed in designated areas with a Low or Moderate Fire Danger Rating upon approval of the local fire response authority who has jurisdiction over the designated area. I order total utilization of the North Dakota State Emergency Operations Plan in response to the situation, to assist local and tribal officials, alleviate hardships, and implement appropriate recovery actions and future mitigation measures to limit hardships and impacts of the emergency. I authorize the Adjutant General to activate and make available North Dakota National Guard resources in support of local and tribal governments based upon normal cost share agreements.

This order is in effect through April 15, 2015, unless rescinded or extended and is issued upon the following basis and for the following reasons:

1. The Governor is vested with the executive authority pursuant to Article V, Section 1 of the North Dakota Constitution; and,
2. The governor is vested with statutory authority to issue executive orders to minimize or avert the effects of a disaster or emergency pursuant to Chapter 37-17.1 of the North Dakota Century Code; and,
3. A coordinated and effective effort of all state departments is required to minimize the impact of disasters and emergencies in this state; and,
4. Red Flag Warnings from the National Weather Service and state, local, and tribal emergency management and firefighting organizations indicate a severe threat to public and private property.

Executed at Bismarck, North Dakota, this 1<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2015.

  
Jack Dalrymple  
Governor

ATTEST:

  
Secretary of State

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