

**JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA REQUEST

TO: Board of County Commissioners
Mark McCauley, County Administrator

FROM: Phil Cecere, Fire Marshal

DATE: June 23, 2025

RE: Discussion re: Declaration of High Fire Danger

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

The Jefferson County Fire Marshal has recently declared a High Fire Danger to take effect June 25, 2025. Public notice and report to the Commissioners is required following a change in fire danger rating per JCC8.72.040 (1). This has implications and restrictions to some activities for residents and visitors to Jefferson County.

ANAYLSIS:

The Jefferson County Marshal called a meeting with the Fire Chiefs and fire service partners on June 18, 2025. As a result, the decision was made to raise the fire danger rating to high, taking effect June 25, 2025, to aid in messaging. A declaration was prepared and a social media campaign was launched. In a period of declared high fire danger all residential burning, target shooting outside of gun ranges including use of exploding targets, and charcoal grills not at a residence are prohibited as well as sales transport and discharge of fireworks.

Public outreach campaigns, including traffic information signs posted at the entrances to East Jefferson County were suggested at a workshop earlier this year. Co-branded social media packets and printable PDF fliers with QR codes linked to the Fire Marshal webpage were distributed to fire service partners for consistency of messaging. In previous firework prohibitions the sheriff noted that a lot of enforcement effort was spent on visitors to Jefferson County that claimed unfamiliarity with the regulations.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no direct fiscal impact to Jefferson County.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Board discuss the recent declaration of High Fire Danger and take possible action for increase in public awareness.

REVIEWED BY:


Mark McCauley, County Administrator


Date



Jefferson County Community Development Office of the Fire Marshal

Phil Cecere

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For immediate release *effective* June 25, 2025:

DECLARATION OF HIGH FIRE HAZARD FOR ALL OF UNINCORPORATED JEFFERSON COUNTY

The Jefferson County Fire Marshal and the Jefferson County Fire Chiefs are the leading agencies responsible for instilling safeguards against hazards caused by dangerous conditions associated with fire. A declaration of high fire hazard is necessary to protect residents and property, and preserve local resources for firefighters and first responders in Jefferson County.

Due to current atmospheric and field conditions, a DECLARATION OF HIGH FIRE HAZARD is in effect. The County Fire Marshal and the County Fire Chiefs agree that conditions warrant this declaration. Factors considered include, but not limited to, input received from DNR, ORCCA, NWS, and other State, Federal and local agencies.

JCC [8.72.020\(2\)](#) and JCC [8.75.020\(9\)](#) define HIGH FIRE HAZARD as “a period of hot, dry weather accompanied by low fuel moistures, where fires start quickly, spread furiously, and burn intensely and are difficult to control unless they are successfully attacked when the fires are small. It is during this period that wildland fires can be expected, and fire growth will be accelerated.”

During a DECLARATION OF HIGH FIRE HAZARD, the following restrictions apply:

USE OF CHARCOAL BRIQUETTES IS PROHIBITED, EXCEPT FOR COMMERCIALLY MADE LISTED AND LABELED BARBEQUE DEVICES LOCATED AND USED AT A RESIDENCE. JCC [8.72.040\(5\)\(C\)\(I\)](#).

TARGET SHOOTING OUTSIDE OF GUN RANGES, AND USE OF EXPLODING TARGETS OR INCENDIARY AMMUNITION IS PROHIBITED. HUNTING IS ALLOWED IN OPEN AREAS. JCC [8.72.040\(5\)\(C\)\(II\)](#).

THE DISCHARGE, MANUFACTURE, SALE, STORAGE, OR TRANSPORTATION OF FIREWORKS IS PROHIBITED. JCC [8.75.040\(2\)](#).¹

ALL ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED DURING MODERATE FIRE HAZARD JCC [8.72.040\(5\)\(B\)\(II\)](#) AND LOWER LEVELS CONTINUE TO APPLY.

¹ Note that this prohibition does not apply to the exceptions listed in JCC [8.75.040\(2\)\(a\)-\(h\)](#) including “the storage or transportation of consumer fireworks;” “the transportation of fireworks through the county as part of interstate commerce;” or “the public display of fireworks by persons with the appropriate state licenses.” “Fireworks” has the same meaning as in RCW [70.77.126](#). “Consumer fireworks” has the same meaning as in RCW [70.77.136](#).

At this time, all **RECREATIONAL BURNING IS BANNED**. Only gas or propane fueled appliances and wood or solid fuel (wood) appliances with an enclosed flame are allowed (no charcoal cooking). Residential use purpose-built barbecue devices are allowed at a place of residence only. Charcoal or wood barbecue device use at Jefferson County parks, camping, or beaches continues to be **PROHIBITED**. No discharge of firearms on undeveloped lands of Jefferson County is allowed. **FIREWORK USE IS PROHIBITED**. These restrictions could be extended depending on ongoing conditions.

This declaration is in effect until atmospheric and field conditions fall to an acceptable level for a measurable length of time to determine that the threat has lessened and that the risk to residents, property and first responders has subsided to acceptable levels.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Phil Cecere', is positioned above the printed name.

Phil Cecere
Jefferson County Fire Marshal