

McPherson County Burn Ban Media Release

June 23rd 2017

The McPherson County Commissioners called a special meeting, Friday, June 23rd, 2017, to address the public concerns regarding the McPherson County Emergency Burn Ban, which was enacted during the June 6, 2017 meeting. The McPherson County Commissioners unanimously voted to modify the Burn Ban to allow certain limited and supervised activities, as well as define the burn ban and what is and what is not allowed. For the purposes of this burn ban modification the following definitions apply:

Open Fire/Open Burn: Means any outdoor fire, including, but not limited to, a campfire and a burn barrel larger than 55 gallons. Burn barrels smaller than 55 gallons in capacity equipped with a screen or cooking grill are acceptable. However, no burn barrel larger than 55 gallons in capacity shall be used. Open Fire shall not include Charcoal grills, Outdoor Fireplaces, and Liquid fuel grills.

Outdoor Fireplace: Means a manufactured appliance/fire pit constructed of non-combustible materials, with a maximum fuel burning area of three (3) feet. Construction must include a screen, chimney or other device placed above the fuel burning area so that the heat source is contained in such a manner that sparks or embers are not allowed to freely escape into the open atmosphere.

Effective immediately by direction of the McPherson County Commission, Open Burning is prohibited until further notice. Activities allowed with supervision at this time are, the use of Outdoor Fireplaces, Charcoal and Liquid Fuel Grills, Burn Barrels 55 gallons or less equipped with a screen or barbecue cooking grills, and Fireworks.

Provided conditions continue to improve, the limited burn ban and the restrictions potentially could be lifted at future meetings. Conversely, if conditions deteriorate, a complete and total ban on all burning will again be imposed.

Future Burn Ban ordinance, definition and clarification will be addressed in a timely manner in anticipation of needed action in years to follow.

Regarding Fireworks, be sure to refer to individual city ordinances. Aerial displays, rockets, bottle rockets, etc., are prohibited in city residential areas. Some cities have designated areas where these items are allowed. While fireworks are not banned, the McPherson County Commission asks residents to use caution while enjoying the holiday tradition as conditions in the area are still very dry.