



San Juan County Fire & Rescue
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PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

San Juan County Fire & Rescue to Cease Issuing Burn Permits

Open burning prohibited in Bloomfield, Kirtland, and unincorporated San Juan County until further notice

AZTEC, NM—Due to severe fire conditions, San Juan County Fire & Rescue will not be issuing burn permits for residents in Bloomfield, Kirtland, and the unincorporated part of San Juan County.

Burn permits will not be issued after 7:00 am on Saturday, May 15, 2021 until further notice.

San Juan County ordinance and New Mexico statute mandate the issuance of burn permits for legal open burning. Open burning is defined as burning of materials without a chimney, in a manner which the products of combustion are emitted to the open air. This includes agriculture burns.

San Juan County is currently listed with 71.71% of the county in exceptional drought (D4). This is the highest drought rating and means that the fire danger is extreme. Long-term forecasts and evaluation of fuels indicate that conditions will continue to worsen into June.

Current conditions, including windy, hot, and dry weather, and susceptibility of fuels to fire means residents need to be especially careful with any activities that could cause a fire. This includes industrial activities like welding, grinding, and cutting, parking hot engines on dry brush or grasses, or the use of small engine equipment which could cause sparks. It is important to be cautious when disposing of cigarettes and careful with any gas or charcoal grills.

Residents who burn without a permit, or carelessly start a fire, can be charged under New Mexico statute, and could face up to 90 days, a \$500 fine, or both.

San Juan County Fire & Rescue staff will continue to monitor conditions and will update the situation as it changes.

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