

DISASTER EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION

KOSCIUSKO COUNTY, INDIANA

June 22, 2012

WHEREAS, Kosciusko County, Indiana is immediately threatened by a natural disaster-specifically county wide drought conditions, and;

WHEREAS, the Kosciusko County Fireman's Association whole heartily supports the continuation of a burn ban, now more than ever and;

WHEREAS, the Commissioners wish is that the residence of Kosciusko County continue to use good sense during this unprecedented dry condition, by not subjecting themselves to potential personal liability by unnecessary use of outdoor fires.

WHEREAS, as of the 22nd day of June, 2012 we find Kosciusko County to be at risk of widespread fire hazards because of the ongoing drought conditions and;

WHEREAS, a County wide burn ban affecting certain activities is an appropriate public safety response to the fire hazards presented by the current drought conditions;

NOW THEREFORE, we, the Kosciusko County Board of Commissioners, declare, pursuant to the provisions of IC 10-14-3-29, that a state of emergency exists in the County and that we hereby invoke and declare those portions of the Indiana Code which are applicable to the conditions and have caused the issuance of this proclamation, to be in full force and effect in the County for the exercise of all necessary emergency authority for protection of the lives and property of the people of Kosciusko County.

We also declare that, effective immediately, the following activities are prohibited in Kosciusko County:

1. campfires and other recreational fires, unless enclosed in a fire ring with dimensions of 23 inches in diameter x 10 inches high or larger;
2. open burning of any kind using conventional fuel such as wood, or other combustible matter, with the exception of grills fueled by charcoal briquettes or propane;
3. the burning of debris, such as timber or vegetation, including such debris that results from building construction activities; and

4. use of personal fireworks, with the exception of organized fireworks displays when the local fire department is on site

Burning will be allowed in burn barrels with a ¼” mesh top from dawn to dusk only.

Charcoal from permitted grills shall not be removed from the grills until the charcoal has been thoroughly extinguished.

Reference is hereby made to all appropriate laws statutes, ordinances and resolutions and particularly to Section 10-14-3-29 of the Indiana Code.

All public offices and employees of Kosciusko County are hereby directed to exercise the utmost diligence in the discharge of duties required of them for the duration of the emergency and in execution of emergency laws, regulations, and directives whether state and local.

All residents are called upon and directed to comply with necessary emergency measures, to cooperate with public officials and disaster services forces in executing emergency operations plans, and to obey and comply with the lawful directions of properly identified officers.

All operating forces will direct their communications and requests for assistance and operations directly to the Emergency Operations Center.

This Disaster Emergency Proclamation shall be in effect until 2400 hours June 29, 2012.

IN WITNESS, WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hand this 22nd day of June, 2012.

KOSCIUSKO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

Robert Conley, President of Commissioners

Ronald Truex, Commissioner

Bradford Jackson, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Marsha McSherry, Auditor