

A RESOLUTION TO TEMPORARILY LIMIT OUTDOOR BURNING DUE TO DROUGHT CONDITIONS

Resolution No: 26-004

WHEREAS, Berrien County has experienced prolonged dry weather resulting in drought conditions; and

WHEREAS, these drought conditions have significantly increased the risk of wildfires and the spread of uncontrolled fires; and

WHEREAS, open burning of yard debris poses a serious threat to public safety, property, and natural resources during periods of extreme dryness; and

WHEREAS, Berrien County desires to take reasonable and necessary measures to reduce fire hazards and protect the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Berrien County Board of Commissioners that:

1. Temporary Restriction – All open burning of yard debris, including leaves, limbs, grass and other vegetative matter, is hereby restricted within Berrien County effective April 23, 2026.

2. Prohibited Activities – No person shall ignite or allow the burning of yard debris outdoors except as provided in this resolution.

3. Exemptions – This restriction shall not apply to:

- Controlled burns conducted by government agencies or authorized personnel for forestry or public safety purposes.
- Fires used for cooking in approved grills or fire pits, provided they are attended and comply with applicable safety regulations.
- Agricultural or forestry burns conducted under a valid permit and in accordance with state law and Georgia Forestry Commission guidelines.

4. Enforcement – This resolution shall be enforced by Berrien County officials and their designated departments, including but not limited to the Berrien County Fire Department and Sheriff's Office.

5. Duration – This resolution shall remain in effect until drought conditions improve and the Board of Commissioners formally rescinds this resolution

6. Public Notice – Berrien County shall provide notice of this restriction through appropriate public channels including the County website, social media, and local news outlets.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution is adopted this 22nd day of April, 2026.



John Nugent, Chairman

4-22-2026
Date

ATTEST:



Brenda Ferrell, Clerk