

**EXECUTIVE ORDER EXTENDING A LOCAL BURN BAN  
DUE TO DROUGHT-LIKE WEATHER CONDITIONS IN SEMINOLE COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, according to Seminole County Code Section 85.24, when drought conditions result in a Keetch-Byram Drought Index (“KBDI”) of 500, a prohibition on open burning in Seminole County shall take place; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 28, 2023, the Seminole County Chairman executed Executive Order 2023-012, renewing the existing Local State of Emergency seven (7) more days to continue aiding the recovery efforts from Hurricane Ian and Nicole inclusive of building construction and rehabilitation, and repairs to infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 28, 2023 the Chairman of the Seminole County Board of County Commissioners executed Executive Order 2023-013, which established a Burn Ban due to the elevated KBDI and drought-like weather conditions in Seminole County; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Weather Service has determined that dry weather and drought-like conditions continue to create a high risk for fire danger and the weather forecasts show a continuing high burn potential in the area; and

**WHEREAS**, eliminating open burning during the period of the emergency will lessen the risk of forest and brush fires, and thereby reduce the risk of harm to human life and property; and

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 252.38 (3) (a) (5), Florida Statutes, grants political subdivisions the authority to take whatever action is necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare during a State of Local Emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 85.22, Seminole County Code, grants the authority for the Board of County Commissioners to declare a prohibition on all open burning in Seminole County, upon the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners signing an Executive Order.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BY THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:**

**Section 1. Extension of Burn Ban.** Extremely dry, drought-like conditions and the imminent potential for further forest and brush fires continue to pose a serious threat to the lives and property of the residents of Seminole County and the Burn Ban is hereby extended, effective immediately. The general public is hereby prohibited from conducting any open burning including any campfires, bonfires, trash burning and any other similar open incineration without a burning authorization issued by the Florida Forest Service while this Order is in effect.

**Section 2. Term.** This Burn Ban shall be effective for all of Seminole County, Florida. The Burn Ban shall remain in effect for seven (7) days and at that time the order shall be reviewed and either extended or rescinded based on weather projections.

**Section 3. Notice.** The Sheriff and other law enforcement, fire prevention, and emergency personnel are directed to publicize and educate the public regarding the dangers, risks, and prohibitions associated with open burning during the term of this Executive Order.

**Section 4. Enforcement.** The Sheriff and other law enforcement officials, agents of the State Fire Marshal, the Florida Forest Service and Seminole County Code Enforcement Officers are empowered to specifically enforce this Order during this Burn Ban.

**Section 5. Alterations or Rescission.** This declaration of a Burn Ban may be altered or rescinded either by the issuance of a subsequent Executive Order or by an appropriate Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners.

ORDERED this 4<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023 at 8 AM  
By: Amy Lockhart  
Amy Lockhart, Chairman, Board of County Commissioners