



Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Adam H. Putnam, Commissioner

Dear County Leaders:

As you all are aware, every corner of Florida is experiencing severe drought conditions, and this is one of the worst wildfire seasons we've seen since 2011.

There are more than 100 active wildfires burning more than 14,000 acres statewide and into Georgia. Year to date, more than 155,000 acres have burned in Florida due to wildfire.



Unfortunately, the two leading causes of wildfire are carelessness and arson—both caused by people. With the worst of Florida's normal wildfire season just beginning, it's critical to reduce human-caused fires statewide.

Debris burning has been the top cause of wildfire this year, and the best way to prevent debris burning-caused wildfires is through county burn bans. To date, 26 counties have enacted burn bans under emergency ordinances. A map of the counties with burn bans can be found [here](#).

However, the Florida Forest Service advises that there are critical areas from northeast to southwest Florida that do not currently have a county burn ban in place, and if one were in place, it would help prevent wildfires.

I encourage each of you to evaluate whether a county burn ban would help protect life, property and wildlife from wildfires in your communities.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to our State Forester, Jim Karels. He can be reached at 850-681-5825 or Jim.Karels@freshfromflorida.com.

Thank you for your partnership in keeping Floridians and visitors safe from wildfire.

Sincerely,

Adam H. Putnam
Florida Commissioner of Agriculture
