Christian County Commission

100 W. Church Street Room 100
Ozark, Missouri 65721
(417)582-4300

Lynn Morris
Presiding Commissioner

Bradley A. Jackson
Eastern Commissioner

Johnny Williams
Western Commissioner

ORDER OF THE
CHRISTIAN COUNTY COMMISSION
OZARK, MO

ORDER # 10152026-01 **DATE: 10/15/2026**

AN ORDER, AUTHORIZING PROCEDURES TO ENACT A COUNTY-WIDE BURN BAN PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF STATE LAW AND SECTION 49.266 RSMO.

BE IT ORDERED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF CHRISTIAN COUNTY, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, the County Commission of Christian County, Missouri, is authorized to enact Orders to promote and enhance the public health, safety and general welfare of individuals within Christian County, Missouri; and

WHEREAS, Section 49.266 RSMo. authorizes the enactment of a County-wide ban of open fires pursuant to the provisions of that Statute; and

WHEREAS, the State Fire Marshall has determined a burn ban order is appropriate for Christian County because the US Drought Monitor has designated Christian County as being an area of severe, extreme, or exceptional drought pursuant to Section 49.266.3 RSMo.

NOW on this 15th day of October 2026, upon motion made by Commissioner Jackson and Seconded by Commissioner Williams the Christian County Commission unanimously voted to enact as County burn ban for Christian County as follows:

SECTION 1: PURPOSE:

This ordinance is intended to promote the public health, safety and welfare and to safeguard the health, comfort, living conditions, safety and welfare of the citizens of the County of Christian by temporarily regulating the fire hazards of open burning and outdoor burning during the current drought conditions.

SECTION 2: APPLICABILITY

2. Applicability.

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This ordinance applies to all outdoor burning and open burning within the unincorporated areas of the county, and all incorporated areas within Christian County that do not have a municipal ordinance banning open burning.

2.1 This ordinance does not apply to grilling or cooking food using charcoal, wood, propane or natural gas in cooking or grilling appliances.

2.2 This ordinance does not apply to burning for the purpose of generating heat in a stove, furnace, fireplace or other heating device within a building used for human or animal habitation.

2.3 This ordinance does not apply to the use of propane, acetylene, natural gas, gasoline or kerosene in a device intended for heating, construction or maintenance activities.

SECTION 3: SEVERABILITY

3. Severability

Should any portion of this ordinance be declared unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this ordinance shall not be affected.

SECTION 4: DEFINITIONS

4. Definitions

4.1. "Campfire" means a small outdoor fire intended for recreation or cooking but not including a fire intended for disposal of waste, wood or refuse.

4.2. "Clean wood" means natural wood which has not been painted, varnished or coated with a similar material; has not been pressure treated with preservatives; and does not contain resins or glues as in plywood or other composite.

4.3. "Construction and demolition waste" means building waste material, including but not limited to waste shingles, insulation, lumber, treated wood, painted wood, wiring, plastics, packaging, and rubble that results from construction, remodeling, repair, and demolition operations on a house commercial or industrial building, or other structure.

4.4. "Outdoor burning: means open burning or burning in an outdoor wood-fired boiler or patio wood burning unit.

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4.5. "Open burning" means kindling or maintaining a fire where the products of combustion are emitted directly into the ambient air without passing through a stack or chimney. This includes burning in a burn barrel.

4.6. "Outdoor wood-fired boiler" means a wood-fired boiler, stove or furnace that is not located within a building intended for habitation by humans or domestic animals.

4.7. "Patio wood-burning unit" means chiminea, patio warmer, or other portable wood-burning device used for outdoor recreation and/or heating.

4.8. "Refuse" means any waste material including trash, trees, logs brush, stumps, leaves, grass clippings, and other vegetative matter. Refuse shall include controlled burning of vegetative and brush material on real property.

SECTION 5: GENERAL PROHIBITION ON OUTDOOR BURNING AND OPEN BURNING

5. General prohibition on outdoor burning and open burning.

Open burning and outdoor burning are prohibited in the county unless the burning is specifically permitted by this ordinance.

SECTION 6: OPEN BURNING OF REFUSE

6. Open burning of refuse.

6.1. Open burning of refuse from a residential commercial or industrial establishment is prohibited.

6.2. Open burning of the following materials is prohibited.

6.2.1. Construction and demolition waste.

6.2.2. Hazardous substances including but not limited to batteries, household chemicals, pesticides, used oil, gasoline, paints, varnishes, and solvents.

6.2.3. Furniture and appliances.

6.2.4. Tires.

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6.2.5. Any plastic materials including but not limited to nylon, PVC, ABS, polystyrene or urethane foam, and plastic containers.

6.2.6. Treated or painted wood including but not limited to plywood, composite wood products or other wood products that are painted, varnished or treated with preservatives.

SECTION 7: OPEN BURNING OF TREES, LOGS, BRUSH, STUMPS, LEAVES, AND GRASS CLIPPINGS

7. Open burning of refuse, vegetative materials, leaves, limbs and wood is prohibited.

7.1. Except for barbecue, gas, and charcoal grills, no burning shall be undertaken within 50 feet from any combustible material.

SECTION 8: AGRICULTURAL BURNING

8. Agricultural Burning.

8.1. Open burning of refuse, weeds, brush, fence rows, and crop stubble on agricultural lands is prohibited.

SECTION 9: BURNING PERMITS

9. Specific prohibitions detailed within this Order may only be waived if an individual obtains a Burn Permit authorized and issued by the Fire Chief or designated official of the appropriate fire station with jurisdiction over the proposed location of the burn site. Issuance of such permits is at the discretion of the fire department.

SECTION 10: LIABILITY, ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES

10. Liability.

10.1. A person who has violated this ordinance shall be responsible for all fire suppression costs and any other liability resulting from damage caused by the fire. A person found to have violated this ordinance shall be guilty of a Class A Misdemeanor and subject to a range of punishment of up to 365 days in jail and a fine of up to $2,000.00 or any combination thereof.

SECTION 11; EFFECTIVE DATE AND SUNSET

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11. This Ordinance was approved and adopted by the County of Christian at a regular meeting held on October 15, 2026. This Ordinance shall be posted on the County Courthouse and shall be effective on the date of execution. This ordinance shall sunset 30 days after the date of adoption, unless terminated or extended an earlier time by the Christian County Commission.

CHRISTIAN COUNTY, MISSOURI

DATE 10-15-26

BY: _____
Lynn Morris, Presiding Commissioner

DATE 10.15.26

BY: _____
Johnny Williams, Western Commissioner

DATE 10-15-26

BY: _____
Bradley Jackson, Eastern Commissioner

ATTEST: _____
Paula Brumfield, County Clerk

COUNTY CLERK SEAL CHRISTIAN COUNTY MO