



# Valencia County Fire Department

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## **VALENCIA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT BURN BAN**

Due to ongoing drought, severe fire danger, and serious lack of resources throughout New Mexico; Valencia County is implementing an open burn ban effective March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and will remain in effect for 60 days or until conditions change to reduce the fire danger, at which time we will reevaluate the need for the open burn ban restrictions and update as appropriate.

The Fire Department uses several criteria to determine when to implement restrictions, including current and predicted weather, fuel moisture, fire activity levels and available firefighting resources. In recent weeks, even "controlled burns" on designated burn days have escaped the property causing large, resource intensive fires. The restriction of open burning is a proactive way to reduce the very real risk of fire; we must do what we can to protect our Bosque from wildfire, protect our natural resources, and we must protect the safety of our communities' lives and property while enhancing firefighter safety.

The open burn ban restricts any and all outdoor fires such as weed burning, cooking fires, and bonfires. Additionally, we urge you to use extreme caution when utilizing and open flame such as welding or grinding, and have at least a 4 foot in diameter area cleared of all flammable material with a water source or extinguisher before disposal. Please avoid parking or leaving a running vehicle in dry brush or cotton, this can create a fire that will spread.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Propp", is written over a light gray background.

Matt Propp, Fire Chief  
Valencia County Fire Department