

**PROCLAMATION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF COCONINO COUNTY
PURSUANT TO A.R.S. § 26-311 AND THE DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY IN
COCONINO COUNTY**

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, the Coconino County Board of Supervisors declared a local emergency pursuant to A.R.S. § 26-311 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, pursuant to A.R.S. § 26-311 and Declaration of Emergency issued by Coconino County, the Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors of Coconino County is authorized to govern by proclamation and make necessary and appropriate orders to preserve the peace and order of the unincorporated areas of the County,

WHEREAS, there are currently Federal, State and Local Emergency Declarations in effect; and

WHEREAS, on April 13, 2020, the Governor of Arizona issued Executive Order 2020-18 to implement “enhanced mitigation strategies” in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which included the implementation of CDC guidance regarding “social distancing;” and

WHEREAS, Coconino County currently has the highest COVID-19 infection rate per 100,000 people and the highest death rate per 100,000 people in the state of Arizona; and

WHEREAS, the United States Forest Service has issued a campfire ban throughout the Coconino County jurisdictional boundary to include building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire, or stove fire (This is does not include gas/propane powered stoves, grills or lanterns that have an on/off switch), due to conditions caused by COVID-19 pandemic, in an effort to minimize potential exposure to fire fighters to the threat of COVID-19 and to reduce the impacts of poor air quality on those suffering from and at risk of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, wildland fire fighting is a hazardous profession that at times limits the ability to social distance during missions and the level of physical fatigue and stress placed on fire fighters makes them more vulnerable to this highly infectious disease.

WHEREAS, in light of COVID-19. the Forest Service has issued new guidelines on management of wildfires on national forest lands, including:

- Manage the forest with a directive of full suppression on all fires to limit the size and potential spread of fire, minimizing staff exposure
- Personnel resources may be limited due to an infection of a crew member, thus placing an entire crew under quarantine is very possible.
- Limit the number of fire responses by eliminating unpermitted campfires, which puts Forest Service and Fire Department wildland crews at much less risk.
- Re-define fire response camps to be more cognizant to social distancing, when feasible; use spike camps, instead of large main camps.
- Use of more aviation assets to respond to wildfires to limit the exposure of personnel.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED AND IMPOSED AS FOLLOWS:

1. To mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and protect the lands in the unincorporated areas of the County from wildfires, it is reasonable and necessary to impose certain temporary restrictions on campfires consistent with the ban issued by the United States Forest Service;
2. All campfires are banned throughout the jurisdiction of unincorporated areas of the County;
3. Such ban includes building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire, or stove fire
4. This campfire ban does not include gas/propane powered stoves, grills or lanterns that have an on/off switch
5. Further, this campfire ban shall not interfere with proactive forest restoration measures and related activities currently underway throughout Coconino County on National Forest lands or private lands.
6. This Proclamation shall be effective immediately upon adoption due to the foregoing emergency and shall remain in effect until rescinded by the Board of Supervisors.
7. This Proclamation shall be enforced pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 26-316, 26-317.