



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
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## MEDIA ADVISORY

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[www.sfwmd.gov/news](http://www.sfwmd.gov/news)

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### **SFWMD Issues a Burn Ban on Public Lands**

*Campfires and other open burning are prohibited due to dry conditions*

**West Palm Beach, FL** – In an effort to protect lives, property and the environment amid severe drought conditions that have increased wildfire danger, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) today issued an emergency order that prohibits the public from building fires on District lands open for recreation.

The ban means no fires in grills, fireplaces or fire rings provided by the District or other authorized management agencies until further notice. The cautious use of portable camp stoves and grills, brought in by users for cooking purposes only, is allowed.

Since January 1, at least 1,570 wildfires have burned 43,565 acres in Florida, more than twice last year's number of fires and acres burned to date in 2008. Most of these fires were caused by human carelessness, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services reported on Thursday.

Along with the burn ban, the SFWMD is asking residents and businesses to conserve water and follow landscape irrigation restrictions to stretch and protect the public supply. More information about limits by area is available on the District's [water restrictions](#) Web site. For water saving tips, visit [www.savewaterfl.com](http://www.savewaterfl.com).

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**About the South Florida Water Management District – [Celebrating 60 Years \(1949-2009\)](#)**

*The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state – 16 counties from Orlando to the Keys. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts. The agency mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. A key initiative is cleanup and restoration of the Everglades.*