



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 Extends Burn Ban on Public Lands Open for Recreation**

*Campfires and other open burning are prohibited because of extremely dry conditions*

**West Palm Beach, FL** – Due to severe drought conditions that have increased wildfire danger, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) has issued an emergency order adding Orange, Osceola and Polk counties to the ban on building fires on certain District lands open for recreation. All of the District's 16 counties are now under this burn ban.

The burn ban, which applies specifically to land managed by the District, means no fires in grills, fireplaces or fire rings until further notice. The cautious use of portable camp stoves and grills for cooking purposes is allowed.

As of June 27, a total of 3,795 wildfires have burned 199,860 acres in Florida, according to the Florida Division of Forestry. The danger of additional wildfires persists.

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 water supply. For water saving tips, visit [www.savewaterfl.com](http://www.savewaterfl.com).



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### **About the South Florida Water Management District**

*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.*