



EMERGENCY MEETING AGENDA

February 9, 2026

4:30 P.M.

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

II. PRAYER AND FLAG CEREMONY

III. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ADOPTION

- A. Resolution 2026-01 Local State of Emergency Baker County – Burn Ban

IV. ADJOURN

RESOLUTION 2026-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA, DECLARING A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY IN BAKER COUNTY; AND ISSUING A BAN AGAINST BURNING; PROVIDING FOR RECALL OF SAME; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, empowers counties to have emergency management jurisdiction in the county and to perform emergency management functions within their territorial limits; and

WHEREAS, according to the best available weather information, dry weather conditions have contributed to extremely dry conditions in Baker County already resulting in wildfires in counties adjacent to Baker County, and

WHEREAS, the Keetch-Byram Drought Index, a soil moisture measurement in which a measurement of 400 denotes a significant danger of fire, and has Baker County currently measured at 503, with drought conditions expected to remain high to very high for the month of February; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Drought Monitor is a joint effort of the National Drought Mitigation Center, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The U.S. Drought Monitor depicts the location and intensity of drought across the country using 5 classifications: Abnormally Dry (D0), showing areas that may be going into or are coming out of drought, and four levels of drought (D1–D4). The U.S. Drought Monitor denotes portions of Baker County Florida as: D1 – Moderate Drought 14.43%; D2 – Severe Drought 20.80%; and D3 – Extreme Drought 64.77%; and

WHEREAS, due to weather conditions, any open burning creates unacceptable risks for accidental or careless ignition of dry vegetation; and

WHEREAS, it is currently impossible to determine how long the adverse weather conditions will continue; and

WHEREAS, open fire burning, as well as the use of fireworks, sparklers, and other combustibles poses an extreme hazard and threat to public safety; and

WHEREAS, due to the threat of wildfires igniting within Baker County, further measures are required to protect Baker County citizens, visitors, and to otherwise protect the lives, public, health, safety, welfare and property.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA:

Section 1. Adoption and Incorporation of Recitals. The Board of County Commissioners of Baker County, Florida adopts the recitals outlined above and incorporates them herein as a part of this resolution.

Section 2. Declaration of Local Emergency.

- a. Pursuant to the authority established in Section 252.38, Florida Statutes, and after consultation with state and federal forestry officials and other local authorities it is determined that dry weather conditions currently exist and are likely to continue into the near future and these conditions, combined with the abundance of easily ignitable vegetation, increase the potential of serious wildfires occurring within Baker County
- b. A local state of emergency exists and is declared in Baker County effective February 9, 2026.
- c. This state of emergency will continue to exist for a period of seven (7) days or may be extended or rescinded formally by the County Manager in consultation with the Baker County Fire Chief and the Florida Forest Service.
- d. Pursuant to Section 125.66, Florida Statutes, and the Baker County Emergency Management Plan, all outdoor burning is hereby prohibited, including, but not limited to vegetative debris, except where the outdoor burning is being performed pursuant to an outdoor burning authorization issued by the Florida Forest Service.
- e. An exception to the burn ban may be granted by the Florida Forest Service after a request for such exception is submitted by the individual concerned, with a copy to Baker County, and an onsite inspection is made and is determined by the Florida Forest Service representative that such burning may be accomplished safely.

- f. All outdoor burning of yard trash, household paper products, bonfires, campfires, warming fires, outdoor fireplaces, chimeneas, and cooking fires are prohibited. The burn ban does not pertain to cooking on attended and monitored barbecue equipment, so long as that equipment is a contained gas or charcoal grill.
- g. The setting of fires to any grass, brush or forest covered land, unless authorized by the Florida Forest Service, shall constitute a violation of the law.
- h. The use of fireworks, sparklers and other incendiary devices is strictly prohibited.
- i. The County Manager in conjunction with the Baker County Sheriff is hereby authorize to activate the Baker County Emergency Operations Plan in the event of an outbreak of wildfires in the County caused by the aforementioned weather conditions, and to exercise of all powers provided by Section 252.38, Florida Statutes.
- j. The County Manager is further empowered to carry out all emergency responsibilities delegated by the Governor to the political subdivisions of the State.

Section 3. Direction to Clerk.

The Clerk shall record this Resolution in the Public Records of Baker County, Florida and shall transmit a certified copy to the Baker County Property Appraiser.

Section 4. Effective Date.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption and shall remain in effect for seven (7) days unless extended or rescinded as provided for in this Resolution.

PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED with a quorum present and voting, by the Board of County Commissioners of Baker County, Florida in regular session, this 9th day of February 2026.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: _____

Ronald Mann
Chairman

ATTEST:

Stacie D. Harvey
Clerk of Circuit Court