

**ORDINANCE CONCERNING THE RESTRICTION OF OPEN FIRES, CONTAINED OPEN FIRES, FIREWORKS, PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF FIREWORKS AND USE OF INCENDIARY DEVICES**

**ORDINANCE NO 007-01  
As amended (October 7, 2014)**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LARIMER COUNTY, COLORADO:

**SECTION 1: SCOPE OF ORDINANCE**

This Ordinance shall apply within the unincorporated territory of Larimer County and shall prohibit Open Fires, Contained Open Fires and sale, use or possession of Fireworks upon the conditions stated in this Ordinance.

**SECTION 2: DEFINITIONS**

**Open Fires shall mean:** Any open burning, including camp and cooking fires, welding, or operating acetylene or other torches with open flames. Open Fires shall not include:

1. Fires in camp stoves or grills, fueled by bottled gas or pressurized liquid, and specifically designed for cooking or heating purposes.
2. Fires in permanently constructed stationary masonry or metal fireplaces specifically designed for the purpose of combustion.
3. Fires in commercially operated wood and/or charcoal fired grills designed for cooking.
4. Smoking within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material. Smoking within an enclosed vehicle shall mean that the cigarette, cigar or other smoking instrument is at all times contained within the vehicle and is not allowed to leave the vehicle or protrude or be held outside the vehicle, including the window of the vehicle. Butts and stubs must be disposed of within a trash receptacle or within the vehicle.
5. Welding and other torch work within an enclosed building.
6. Outdoor welding and other torch work provided that:
  - a. The area where the welding or other torch work is to be performed is free of vegetation for at least thirty feet in all directions;
  - b. Wind speed is less than 10m.p.h.; and
  - c. There is sufficient amount of fire suppressant immediately available to suppress any fire that may be started.
7. Fires in air curtain burners.
8. Use of fire by firefighters to stop or contain wildfires.

**Contained Open Fires shall mean:** Fires in permanently constructed stationary masonry or metal fireplaces specifically designed for the purpose of combustion; or operating or using any internal or external combustion engine without a spark arresting device properly installed, maintained and in effective working order meeting either Department of Agriculture, Forest Service Standard 5100-1c or appropriate Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) recommended practice J335(b) and J350(a). Contained Open Fires shall not include fireplaces or wood stoves located inside permanent structures.

**Fireworks shall mean:** Any article, device, or substance prepared for the primary purpose of producing a visual or auditory sensation by combustion, explosion, deflagration, or detonation. Fireworks shall not include:

1. Toy caps which do not contain more than twenty-five hundredths of a grain of explosive compound per cap;
2. Highway flares, railroad fuses, ship distress signals, smoke candles, and other emergency signal devices;
3. Educational rockets and toy propellant device type engines used in such rockets when such rockets are of nonmetallic construction and utilize replaceable engines or model cartridges containing less than two ounces of propellant and when such engines or model cartridges are designed to be ignited by electrical means;
4. Fireworks which are used in testing or research by a licensed explosives laboratory.

**Public Fireworks Displays shall mean:** Any display of Fireworks conducted by a qualified pyrotechnic operator in compliance with the International Fire Code, as amended, and conducted only after the approval by the local fire authority, and compliance with any conditions imposed by the local fire authority.

**Incendiary Devices shall mean:** any object which is combustible, flammable, explodes or is designed to or may cause fire. This includes sky lanterns, exploding ammunition, exploding targets, and tracer ammunition.

**SECTION 3. BAN ON OPEN FIRES, CONTAINED OPEN FIRES AND SALE, USE OR POSSESSION OF FIREWORKS, PUBLIC FIREWORKS DISPLAYS, AND/OR INCENDIARY DEVICES:**

1. At any regularly scheduled or special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners, the Board may, by resolution, impose a ban upon any or all types of Open Fires, Contained Open Fires, the sale, use or possession of Fireworks, and/or the use of Incendiary Devices in the unincorporated territory of Larimer County, or any defined portion thereof.
2. Such resolution shall be based upon a danger of wildfires within the areas where the danger of forest or grass fires is found to be high by competent evidence which may include:
  - a. The recommendation of the Larimer County Sheriff or any fire chief of a fire agency within Larimer County;
  - b. Any similar ban imposed under the authority of the Governor of the State of Colorado;
  - c. Any recommendation, or similar ban, from the Division of Fire Prevention and Control, National Park Service, United States Forest Service, or other agency of the State or Federal Government;

- d. The recommendation of the County Natural Resources Department;
  - e. The recommendation of any municipality within Larimer County;
  - f. The recommendation, or similar ban, of any county adjacent to Larimer County;
  - g. Any testimony or exhibits establishing that, due to weather, weather forecasts, or condition of forest, grass or other vegetation, the likelihood of a wildfire is high.
3. Any such resolution shall specify an expiration date, but in no event shall such ban exceed one (1) year. The ban may be extended in the same manner as its original imposition and upon competent evidence that the wildfire danger continues, however no extension shall cause the ban to exceed one (1) year from the date of the original resolution adopting the ban.
4. Notice of such resolution may be given by best means available including, press release, individual notification to any agency requesting or advising in favor of the ban, individual notification to law enforcement agencies or such other means as in its discretion the Board deems is appropriate under the circumstances.
5. Any such resolution shall state which of the following are subject to the ban:
- a. Open Fires
  - b. Contained Open Fires
  - c. Sale of Fireworks
  - d. Use of Fireworks
  - e. Possession of Fireworks
  - f. Public Fireworks Displays
  - g. Incendiary Devices
6. Any resolution which bans Open Fires and/or Contained Open Fires, may authorize the Sheriff to exempt from such ban any Open Fire or Contained Open Fire, approved in advance by the Sheriff, after inspection of the containment structure, surrounding vegetation and potential fire fuel, and the immediate availability of fire suppression apparatus.

**SECTION 4: ENFORCEMENT**

1. Any person who knowingly violates the Open Fire, Contained Open Fire Fireworks, Public Fireworks Displays or Incendiary Device ban imposed under the authority of this Ordinance commits a class 2 petty offense and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars for each separate offense.
2. The penalty assessment procedure provided in 16-2-201 C.R.S. may be followed by any arresting law enforcement officer for any such violation. The graduated fine schedule for such penalty assessment procedure shall be:
- a. One hundred dollars for the first offense;
  - b. Two hundred fifty dollars for the second offense within sixty days of the first offense;

- c. Five hundred dollars for each additional offense within sixty days of the first offense.
3. In addition to the penalty prescribed in this Ordinance, persons convicted of a violation of this Ordinance are subject to a surcharge of ten dollars. This surcharge shall be paid to the Clerk of the Court by the defendant. Each Clerk shall transmit the moneys to the Court Administrator of the judicial district in which the offense occurred for credit to the victims and witnesses assistance and law enforcement fund established in that judicial district pursuant to section 24-4.2-103 C.R.S.
4. When imposing a fine under this Ordinance, the court shall separately state, as a part of the total fine, the surcharge specified in 24-4.2-104(1) C.R.S. The surcharge and fine shall not exceed the maximum allowed by section 4(1) of this Ordinance. The defendant shall also pay court costs and docket fees.

#### **SECTION 5: PROCEDURE**

All prosecutions for all offenses under this Ordinance shall be by the District Attorney according to the Colorado County Court Rules of Criminal Procedure.

#### **SECTION 6: VALIDITY**

If any part or parts of this Ordinance are for any reason held to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance. The Board of County Commissioners hereby declares that it would have passed this Ordinance and each part or parts thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one part or parts be declared invalid.

#### **SECTION 7: INTERPRETATION**

This Ordinance shall be so interpreted and construed as to effectuate its general purpose to reduce the danger of wild fires.

#### **SECTION 8: CERTIFICATION**

The Larimer County Clerk and Recorder shall certify to the passage of this Ordinance and make not less than three copies of the adopted Ordinance available for inspection by the public during regular business hours.

#### **SECTION 9: EFFECTIVE DATE**

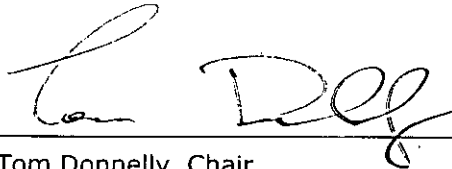
As required by CRS 30-15-405, the Larimer County Board of County Commissioners determines that this Ordinance shall be effective immediately upon approval at second reading by the Board of County Commissioners. This effective date is necessary to the immediate preservation of the public health or safety from the imminent potential danger from wildfire.

#### **SECTION 10: PRIOR ORDINANCES REPEALED**

All fire ban ordinances in effect prior to the effective date of this Ordinance No 007-01 ORDINANCE CONCERNING THE BAN OF OPEN FIRES, CONTAINED OPEN FIRES, FIREWORKS, PUBLIC FIREWORKS DISPLAYS AND INCENDIARY DEVICES, as amended (date) are hereby repealed.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 7<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2014, by the Board of County Commissioners of Larimer County, Colorado.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
LARIMER COUNTY, COLORADO

By:   
Tom Donnelly, Chair

ATTESTATION:

I, Gael Cookman Larimer County Deputy Clerk, attest that the foregoing ORDINANCE CONCERNING THE RESTRICTION OF OPEN FIRES, CONTAINED OPEN FIRES, FIREWORKS, PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF FIREWORKS, AND INCENDIARY DEVICES as amended (date) was read at a meeting of the Board of County Commissioners and has been published in full in a newspaper of general compliance.

  
Deputy Clerk and Recorder

