

Teller County Fire Bans Explained:

When a **Stage I Fire Ban** has been activated by the Board of County Commissioners and Sheriff of Teller County all Open Burning Permits are suspended immediately. The following activities ARE allowed under the Stage I Fire Ban: Use of charcoal grills, gas barbecues, liquid fueled gas stoves or lanterns that are at least 10 feet away from combustible materials. Campfires that are contained within a permanent fire ring located in developed and designated picnic and/ or campgrounds on public or private lands for public use. Designated fire rings must be least 25 feet away from all structures. Fire rings must be less than 3 foot in diameter or 3 feet in length and width, and at least 18 inches in depth. A water supply or other approved fire extinguishing / fire extinguisher must be readily available. All campfires must be attended by a person knowledgeable in the use of fire extinguishing equipment until the fire is completely out. Use of chainsaws with approved fire extinguishing / fire extinguisher readily available. Outdoor welding or cutting with approved fire-extinguishing / fire extinguisher readily available. Smoking in areas that are clear of all flammable or combustible materials, or designated smoking areas.

The following activities ARE PROHIBITED under the Stage I Fire Ban: Burning of materials not contained in outdoor fireplace or permanent fire ring. Use of any explosives (except for permitted mining operations). Use of fireworks of any type (except commercial fireworks within city limits). Firing of model rockets. Burning of irrigation ditches unless completely surrounded by irrigated farmlands where burning is necessary for crop survival.

When a **Stage II Fire Ban** is issued in Teller county: Open burning is banned on private and public lands in Teller County. "Open burning" shall be defined as any outdoor fire, including but not limited to campfires, warming fires, charcoal and wood grill fires, use of chainsaws, all outdoor welding and cutting activities with an open flame, fused explosives, firing of model rockets, use of fireworks, and the prescribed burning of fence rows, fields, wildlands, trash and debris. This order does not apply to commercial fireworks within city limits or fused explosives on designated mining property by special permit issued by the Sheriff.

The following activities ARE allowed under the Stage II Fire Ban: Use of gas, liquid or propane barbecues, gas stoves or lanterns that are at least 10 feet away from combustible walls or roofs, or other combustible materials. Use of chainsaws with approved fire-extinguishment equipment readily available. Fires in fireplaces within buildings. Smoking is limited to enclosed vehicles.

Stage III = all of the above plus the closing of public lands.