

Ravalli County Sheriff's Office
205 Bedford Street, Suite G
Hamilton, MT 59840



Stephen Holton, Sheriff

Travis McElderry, Undersheriff

PRESS RELEASE

February 18, 2020

Ravalli County Commissioners set 2020 open burning season to begin on March 1

The Ravalli County Commissioners have approved Resolution No. 4087, setting the dates for the 2020 open burning season. The open burning period will begin on March 1 and run through November 30, 2020. As in previous years, a burn permit must be obtained or renewed and activated before conducting any outdoor open burning. Ravalli County burn permits are available free of charge. A burn permit must be activated for every day and location that an open burn is ignited.

Burn Permits can be renewed, obtained, and activated online at <http://www.BurnPermits.mt.gov> or by visiting the Ravalli County Sheriff's Office at 205 Bedford St. in Hamilton on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday between 1 pm and 4 pm. Information on burn permits and the Burn Permit Program is available on the Ravalli County Website by clicking on "Burning Permits" at <https://ravalli.us/>.

Residents and individuals conducting open burns are responsible for activating a burn permit before igniting any fire as well as being aware of current and forecast weather conditions and keeping fires under control. A person violating the terms of Resolution No. 4087, including allowing a fire to burn out of control, may be subject to a \$500 fine.

Recreational warming and cooking fires do not require a Burn Permit, and must measure less than 48 inches in diameter, be surrounded by a nonflammable structure and an extinguishing source must be available. Campfires cannot be left unattended and must be completely extinguished before leaving the area of the fire.

The Ravalli County Burn Permit Program is now in its sixth year. In 2019, Ravalli County issued 6,813 Burn Permits and had 19,841 Burn Permit activations. The Program has provided a tremendous benefit to our community's emergency services by eliminating the majority of unnecessary fire department responses to controlled burns, as well as significantly reducing the volume of non-emergency informational calls into our 9-1-1 Dispatch Center.

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Carrianna M Newton

Deputy

RESOLUTION NO. 4087

**ESTABLISHMENT OF THE 2020 RAVALLI COUNTY BURN SEASON
AND RELATED BURN PERMIT PROGRAM**

Return: Commissioners

WHEREAS, Section 7-33-2205, MCA, provides that the County governing body may, at its discretion, establish controlled burning season annually, during which, subject to Section 76-13-121, a person may not ignite or set a fire, including a slash-burning fire, land-clearing fire, debris-burning fire, or open fire within the county protection area on any residential or commercial property, forest, range, or croplands without having obtained an official written permit or permission to ignite or set a fire from the recognized protection agency for that protection area; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Ravalli County Commissioners held a duly noticed public meeting in order to take public comment and establish a Ravalli County Burn Season;

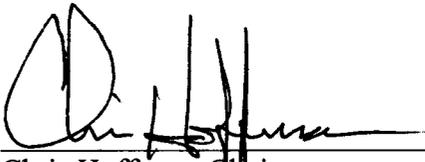
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the RAVALLI COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS does hereby establish a local fire season, authorized under Section 7-33-2205, MCA, beginning March 1, 2020 through November 30, 2020.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that during the period January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020, a person must obtain a permit on-line at www.burnpermits.mt.gov or in person at the Ravalli County Sheriff's Office, and activate said permit on-line at www.burnpermits.mt.gov or by calling 1-866-212-6318 prior to igniting any fire referred to above. And that during the period from December 1, 2020 through February 28, 2021 a person must obtain documentation from the State of Montana Department of Environmental Quality authorizing burning during that period and present that documentation to the recognized fire protection jurisdiction in Ravalli County.

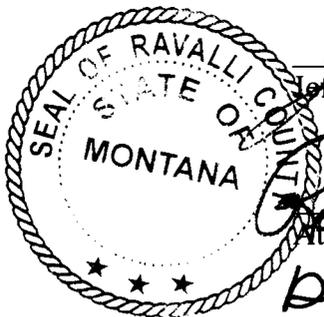
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a person violating the terms of this Resolution shall be subject to a fine of up to and including \$500, pursuant to 7-33-2206 MCA.

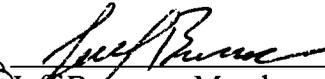
PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 18TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2020.

BOARD OF RAVALLI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Chris Hoffman, Chairman


Greg Chilcott, Member




Jeff Barrows, Member


Regina Plettenberg
Clerk & Recorder

By: *Carrianna M Newton*, Deputy