

RESOLUTION 2026-1

**TOWN OF INTERLACHEN EMERGENCY ORDER PROCLAMATION
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY ORDER REGARDING OPEN BURNING
DURING THE FOREST AND BRUSH FIRE DECLARED EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, by Proclamation dated February 10, 2026 the Interlachen Town Council has declared a state of local emergency for the forest and brush fires in Putnam County; and

WHEREAS, the Keetch-Byram Drought Index, a soil moisture measurement is a continuous reference scale for estimating the dryness of the soil and duff layers, and has Putnam County currently measured at 479 with relative humidity of 22%, the Fire banger Index denotes a moderate danger of fire; 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 (DO), 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 Putnam County Florida as D3 (Extreme Drought) on the western end, and D2 (Severe Drought) for the rest of the county indicating worsening drought conditions through February; and

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

WHEREAS, Florida Statute Section 252.46 authorizes counties to promulgate orders and rules as are necessary for emergency management purposes; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to said authority, Putnam County, Florida has declared “An Emergency Order Regarding Open Burning During the Forest and Brush Fire Declared Emergency”; and

WHEREAS, Florida Statute Section 166.041(3)(b) authorizes municipalities to promulgate orders and rules as are necessary for emergency management purposes; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the police power, the Interlachen Town Council may take actions to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, such orders when filed with the Clerk of Court have the force of law, and all existing laws, ordinances, and rules which are in conflict are suspended to the extent of the conflict pursuant to Florida Statute Section 252.46 (2); and

WHEREAS, the law enforcement authorities of the State and its political subdivisions enforce such orders pursuant to Florida Statute Section 252.47; and

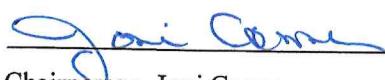
WHEREAS, a violation of a duly promulgated order is a second-degree misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$500.00 for each offense and by a term of imprisonment of up to sixty (60) days in jail for each offense; and

WHEREAS, the Interlachen Town Council finds it necessary to promulgate an emergency order to protect human and animal life and to avert the destruction of property that could result from a wildfire.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT THE FOLLOWING IS PROHIBITED WITHIN THE JURISDICTIONAL TOWN LIMITS IN THE TOWN OF INTERLACHEN, FLORIDA:

1. Open burning, except (a) outdoor grills used in preparing food; and (b) any other activity for which a valid state open burn authorization has been issued by the Florida Forest Service.
2. (a) The sale, use and/or discharge of items listed in Florida Statute 791.01 (b) Fireworks using explosive or combustible compounds; (c) use or discharge of flares, and the use of outdoor burning devices (excluding attended and monitored barbecue/cooking equipment); and (d) any otherwise lawful outdoor burning, such as lawn, debris or trash burning.
3. The parking vehicles with catalytic converters in high grassy areas. No matches or cigarettes, etc., are to be thrown from vehicles.
4. Any person violating any executive order issued pursuant to this Proclamation or any person who willfully fails or refuses to comply with the order or orders of any duly authorized law enforcement officer or personnel charged with the responsibility for the enforcement of such executive orders shall, upon conviction, thereof, be punished in accordance with Florida Statutes Section 252.50.
5. If any provision of the Order is invalidated by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions of the Order, which shall continue to have the full force and effect of the law.
6. This Declaration of emergency shall take effect at 7:00pm on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, and is effective through 7:00pm on Tuesday, February 17, 2026 and may be extended to seven-day increments by the Interlachen Town Clerk or the Mayor.

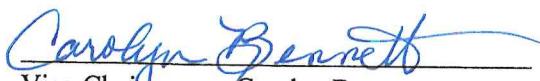
PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED, effective immediately, by the Town Council of Interlachen, Florida, this 10th day of February 2026.



Chairperson, Joni Conner



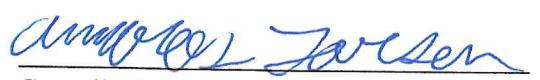
Mayor, Rick Hanes



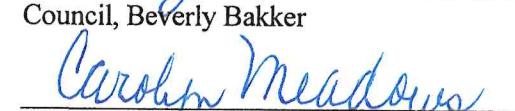
Vice-Chairperson, Carolyn Bennett



Council, Beverly Bakker



Council, Anna Rose Larsen



Council, Carolyn Meadows

Attest:



Town Clerk

(TOWN SEAL)