

**RESOLUTION 2026-2**

**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 April 14, 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 in the 500's, with humidity levels ranging from 39% Tuesday, down to 30% on Saturday, with no significant precipitation, 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 takes effect at 7:00pm, Tuesday, April 14, 2026, and is in effect until 7:00pm, Tuesday, April 21, 2026, and may be extended by the Town Clerk or Mayor in seven-day increments.


**PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED**, by the Town Council of Interlachen, Florida, this 14th day of April 2026.

  
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Chairperson, Joni Conner

  
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Vice-Chairperson, Carolyn Bennett

  
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Council, Anna Rose Larsen

  
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Mayor, Rick Hanes

  
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Council, Beverly Bakker

  
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Council, Carolyn Meadows

Attest:

  
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Joni Payne, Town Clerk

TOWN SEAL