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## Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE April 29, 2020

### **Burn Permits to be Banned in Santa Fe County**

SANTA FE, NM - The Santa Fe County Fire Marshal announces an open burn permit ban, effective Saturday, May 2, 2020 and continuing until further notice. The ban will help mitigate the negative effects of COVID-19 by eliminating unwanted particulates and irritants in the air which may exacerbate breathing difficulties, and will ensure that emergency personnel is available and fully equipped to respond to any call due to the current public health emergency. In addition, it will reduce the risk of unwanted human-caused wildland fires in the unincorporated areas of Santa Fe County, prone to fire dangers.

The exceptions to the open burn permit ban include:

- Recreational fires for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth, or similar purposes, not larger than 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet high, located 25 feet away from any structure or combustible materials
- Outdoor gas stoves or grills with a shut-off valve, located 3 feet from any structure or combustible materials
- Portable outdoor fireplaces, located 15 feet from any structure or combustible materials

Eliminating the risk that a fire will get out of control and create a wildland fire, the National Forest Service has also banned camp fires within New Mexico. Joining in the fight to eliminate wildfires, as of May 2, 2020, all current Santa Fe County burn permits are suspended, along with the issuance of new permits, and open burning is prohibited within the county until further order of the Fire Marshal. Those found violating the order will be cited.

Santa Fe County continues to work to keep residents safe during this public health emergency and appreciates the assistance from the community during this trying time.

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For additional information, please contact Communications Coordinator Carmelina Hart at 505-469-0083 or [chart@santafecountynm.gov](mailto:chart@santafecountynm.gov).