

## Commissioner's Order – Restricting Open Fires in Portions of the State

Date: October 10, 2024

Authorities: *Minnesota Statutes*, sections 88.10, 88.16, 88.17, and 88.22.

---

### BACKGROUND

#### WHEREAS:

The unusually warm and dry September and early October have resulted in abnormally dry to severe drought conditions in northeastern Minnesota; and

These weather conditions have contributed to significant drying of forests, brushlands and grasslands of the state resulting in fuel conditions conducive to wildfire hazards; and

The far northeastern part of the state spanning Cook, Lake, Koochiching and the northern portion of St. Louis counties has unusually low fuel moistures and is experiencing particularly high fire danger indices, reflecting conditions that allow fires to start and spread easily; and

The dry fuels in this part of northeastern Minnesota create a high potential for ignition and the high percentage of conifers increases the potential for fires to spread, particularly in areas where there is limited or poor access for wildfire suppression response; and

Long-term fire risk indices and the extended forecast predict continued warmer and drier than normal conditions; and

Fires in remote areas have increased wildfire suppression response time and increased potential for catastrophic spread; and

Partner agencies within the Minnesota Incident Command System (MNICS) support restricting open fires in the northeastern portion of Minnesota; and

On October 4, 2024, the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources issued a Commissioner's Order restricting open fires in Cook and Lake counties that extended until revoked or modified; and

Since then, the drought conditions have deepened in northeastern Minnesota, further intensifying fire danger; and

The Commissioner now desires to modify the October 3, 2024 Order to expand the area of burning restrictions to include Koochiching and the northern portion of St. Louis counties.

## ORDER

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED**, pursuant to authority vested in me by law, including *Minnesota Statutes*, sections 88.10, 88.16, 88.17, and 88.22, that for the period commencing at 12:01 a.m. on October 11, 2024 and continuing until revoked or modified by further order of the Commissioner, for Cook, Lake, Koochiching and the northern portion of St. Louis counties, excluding tribal lands (Exhibit A):

1. No burning permits may be issued except for special exceptions issued by the state or federal agency having suppression responsibilities; and
2. Campfires or recreational fires are allowed only in a designated fire receptacle designed for such use and associated with a residence, dwelling, campground, or resort; and
3. No use of fireworks is allowed outside of municipalities; use of fireworks within a municipality remains under the municipality's control.

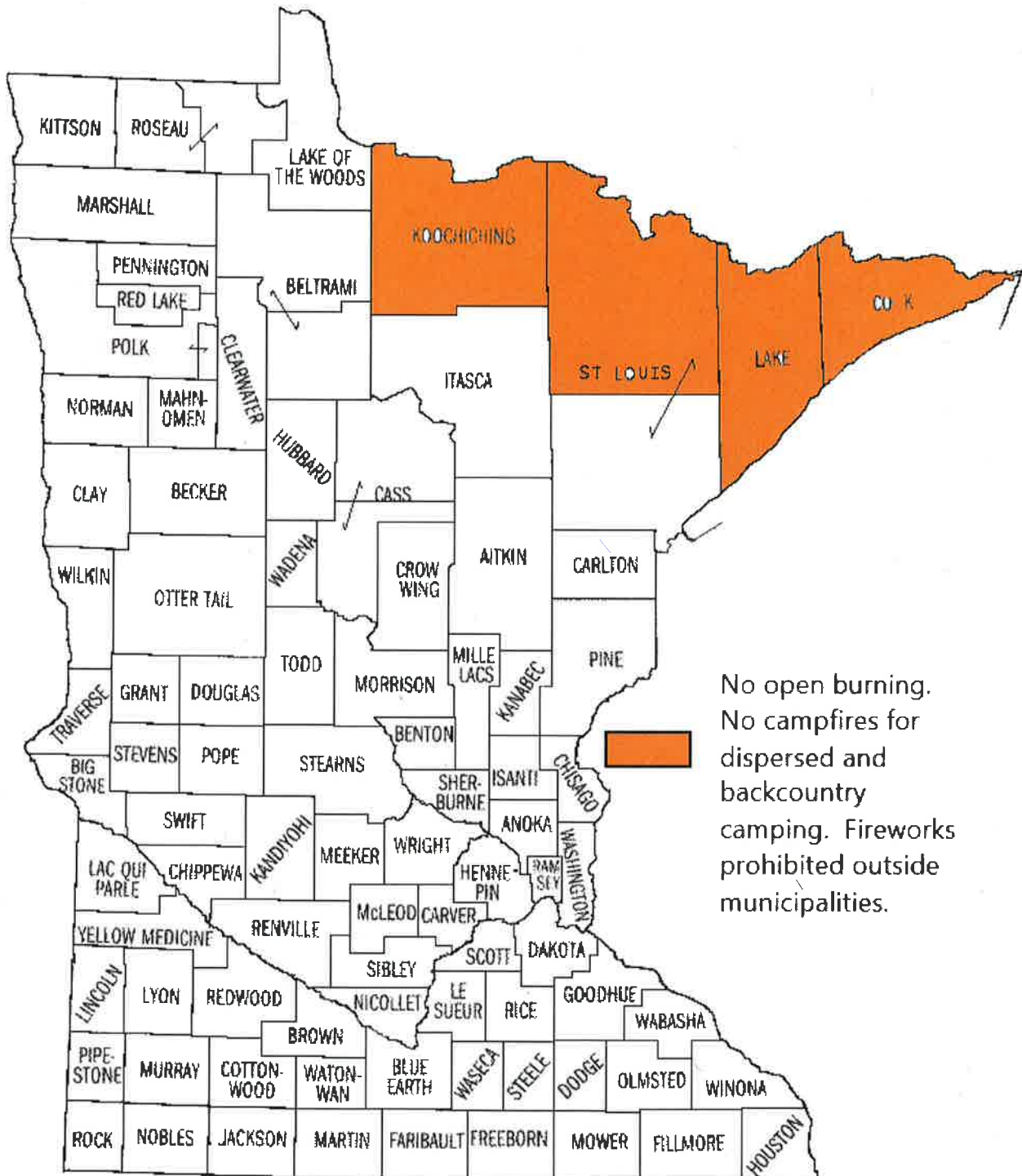
Exhibit A: Counties subject to this Commissioner's Order.



Sarah Strommen, Commissioner

Date: 10/10/2024

Exhibit A: Counties subject to this Commissioner's Order.



No open burning.  
No campfires for dispersed and backcountry camping. Fireworks prohibited outside municipalities.