



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
HERNANDO COUNTY FIRE RESCUE

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To: Honorable Chairman and Members of the
Hernando County Board of County Commissioners.

From: Patrick Taylor, Deputy Fire Chief
Hernando County Fire Rescue

Date: April 4, 2023

Re: Request to Enact County-Wide Burning Ban

With the on-going lack of precipitation and increasing temperatures, Hernando County Fire Rescue has recognized a spike in the number of brush fires. From January 1, 2023, through the authoring of this request, HCFR has responded to 115 brush fires of various sizes and intensities.

The current Keetch-Byram Drought Index for Hernando County is 546 (Moderate/High) as of 04/03/2023 which is a 6-point increase over the prior reading with the Florida Fire Service reporting 53 active wildfires across the state. The County is on track to reach severe drought/fire conditions. The highest rating on the scale is 800 (Desert-like conditions).

Conversations with other area fire departments have yielded the following information:

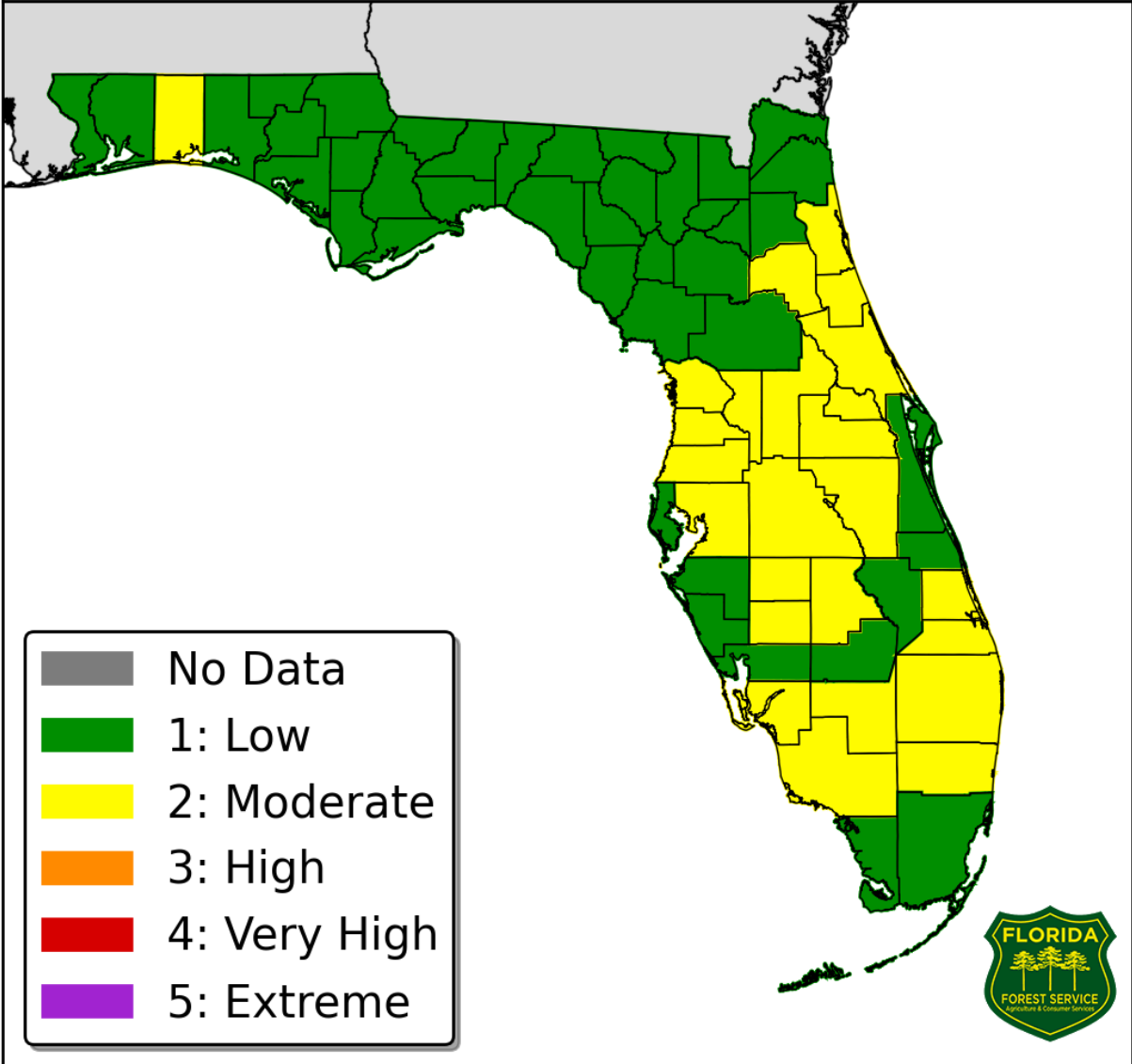
- Pasco County – In process of initiating a ban
- Citrus County – In process of initiating a ban
- City of Brooksville – Agreement with HCFR for need of a ban.
- Counties with Burning Bans in place:
 - Brevard
 - Collier
 - Hendry
 - Lee
 - Orange
 - Osceola
 - Polk
 - Seminole

The Florida Department of Agriculture is forecasting above average temperatures as we move into the driest months (April/May).

HCFR is requesting the implementation of a County-Wide Burn Ban, in accordance with Hernando County Ordinance 2001-02. And as such would apply to all unincorporated areas of Hernando County.

HCFR recommends reevaluating the Burn Ban on a 7-day cycle with an automatic canceling of the ban when the KBDI falls to below 400 for a period of 7-days.

Forecast Fire Danger Indices April 04, 2023



Florida Forest Service

KBDI Summary for April 03, 2023

				<i>Percent of Area in KBDI Range</i>							
	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Change</i>	<i>Min/Max</i>	<i>0-100</i>	<i>101-200</i>	<i>201-300</i>	<i>301-400</i>	<i>401-500</i>	<i>501-600</i>	<i>601-700</i>	<i>701-800</i>
Statewide	387	+9	11 / 719	20	11	7	4	9	27	20	1

KBDI Values by County

				<i>Percent of Area in KBDI Range</i>							
	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Change</i>	<i>Min/Max</i>	<i>0-100</i>	<i>101-200</i>	<i>201-300</i>	<i>301-400</i>	<i>401-500</i>	<i>501-600</i>	<i>601-700</i>	<i>701-800</i>
Hernando	546	+6	510 / 574	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	0

The Keetch-Byram drought index (KBDI) is a continuous reference scale for estimating the dryness of the soil and duff layers.

The range of the index is determined by assuming that there is 8 inches of moisture in a saturated soil that is readily available to the vegetation.

Updated once every day at 1:15 p.m. Eastern/12:15 p.m. Central (Standard) or 2:15 p.m. Eastern/1:00 p.m. Central (Daylight Saving).