



# State of New Mexico

Michelle Lujan Grisham  
*Governor*

## EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-040

### **DECLARING A DROUGHT AND SEVERE FIRE CONDITIONS THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO AND URGING MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENTS TO CONSIDER FIREWORK BANS UNDER THE FIREWORKS LICENSING AND SAFETY ACT**

In recent weeks, fire danger has increased throughout the State due to warmer temperatures, lower humidity, high winds, and an abundance of dry, fine fuels.

Many parts of New Mexico are also currently experiencing drought conditions or on the verge of experiencing drought conditions. According to the United States Drought Monitor, approximately 75% of New Mexico is abnormally dry, while more than half the State is experiencing at least moderate drought conditions, and significant portions of the State are currently in a severe or extreme drought. These percentages have increased dramatically over the past month.

Significant fire danger and prevailing drought conditions create the possibility for numerous natural disasters, including severe wildfires, flooding due to severe wildfires, and crop production loss. These naturally occurring dangers are heightened by the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, which has the potential to strain State resources that would normally be dedicated to fighting wildfires and providing disaster response to affected communities.

Recognizing the worsening conditions and the added urgency of preventing wildfires during COVID-19, the New Mexico State Forester put into place significant fire restrictions for

non-municipal, non-federal, and non-tribal lands beginning on May 13, 2020. For example, outdoor smoking, open campfires, and fireworks use are all prohibited.

Federal authorities have also enacted swift and early measures to respond to increased fire danger in the State. The Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service have each imposed Stage II fire restrictions on many federal lands in the State.

Several tribal governments have also acted swiftly to impose significant fire restrictions on their lands, including the Mescalero Apache Tribe and the Navajo Nation.

Municipal governments and county governments must also do their part to reduce fire danger, including by prohibiting the sale of certain types of fireworks when they are legally authorized to do so.

Therefore, I urge New Mexico's counties, municipalities, and local governments to consider implementing appropriate firework bans pursuant to the Fireworks Safety and Licensing Act, NMSA 1978, §§ 60-2C-1 to -11. Local governments are also urged to consider any other appropriate fire prevention measures that they may legally enact.

THIS ORDER supersedes any other previous orders, proclamations, or directives in conflict. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until the Governor rescinds it.

ATTEST:

*Maggie Toulouse Oliver*

MAGGIE TOULOUSE OLIVER  
SECRETARY OF STATE

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
THIS 15TH DAY OF JUNE 2020

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE GREAT  
SEAL OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

*Michelle Lujan Grisham*  
MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM  
GOVERNOR

