



February 17, 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – MILLS COUNTY OPEN BURN BAN

[Glenwood] – Due to the continued high temperatures, existing dry fuels, limited moisture, and renewed drought conditions, an open burn ban will go into effect Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 8:00am, for all areas and jurisdictions within Mills County. The ban prohibits all open and controlled burning in Mills County, including all incorporated city limits within the county.

Citizens are reminded to not throw out cigarettes from moving vehicles and to discontinue burning yard waste, piled tree debris, grass/agriculture ground and set asides or other items during this ban. Small recreational campfires are permitted only if they're conducted in a fireplace of brick, metal, or heavy one-inch wire mesh, however extreme caution should be taken. Any campfire not in an outdoor fireplace is prohibited.

Violation of the open burn ban can subject a person to criminal charges as well as civil liabilities for any damage, losses or injuries resulting from the fire.

The open burn ban will remain in effect until the dangerous fire conditions are no longer present.

For more information contact the State Fire Marshal's Office at (515) 725-6145 or go to www.dps.state.ia.us. You can also contact Mills County Emergency Management at (712) 527-3643.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Travis Hitchcock".

Travis Hitchcock, Coordinator
Mills County Emergency Management



**PROCLAMATION
OPEN BURNING PROHIBITED**

ON **FEBRUARY 17, 2026**, THE OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL RECEIVED A REQUEST PURSUANT TO IOWA CODE 100.40(1) (1995) FROM **TRAVIS HITCHCOCK**, REPRESENTING EACH FIRE DEPARTMENT HAVING ALL OR PART OF THEIR FIRE DISTRICT WITHIN **MILLS COUNTY**, THAT THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL PROHIBIT OPEN BURNING IN **MILLS COUNTY**. UPON INVESTIGATION THE FIRE MARSHAL FINDS THAT CONDITIONS IN **MILLS COUNTY** ARE SUCH THAT OPEN BURNING CONSTITUTES A DANGER TO LIFE OR PROPERTY.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT NO PERSON SHALL ENGAGE IN OPEN BURNING IN **MILLS COUNTY**, EFFECTIVE **FEBRUARY 17, 2026 AT 8:00 AM** EXCEPT AS SPECIFICALLY PERMITTED BY IOWA CODE 100.40(3) UNTIL SUCH TIME AS **TRAVIS HITCHCOCK**, REPRESENTING EACH FIRE DEPARTMENT HAVING ALL OR PART OF THEIR FIRE DISTRICT WITHIN **MILLS COUNTY**, NOTIFIES THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL THAT SUCH CONDITIONS DANGEROUS TO LIFE OR PROPERTY NO LONGER EXISTS.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT PURSUANT TO IOWA CODE 100.40(2) ANY VIOLATION OF THIS PROCLAMATION ORDER IS A SIMPLE MISDEMEANOR.

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

Dan Wood

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Wood".

STATE FIRE MARSHAL

cc: Sheriff's Department
Dept. of Natural Resources
Emergency Management

IOWA CODE SECTION 100.40

100.40 Marshal may prohibit open burning on request.

- 1. The state fire marshal, during periods of extremely dry conditions or under other conditions when the state fire marshal finds open burning constitutes a danger to life or property, may prohibit open burning in an area of the state at the request of the chief of a local fire department, a city council or a board of supervisors and when an investigation supports the need for the prohibition. The state fire marshal shall implement the prohibition by issuing a proclamation to persons in the affected area. The chief of a local fire department, the city council or the board of supervisors that requested the prohibition may rescind the proclamation after notifying the state fire marshal of the intent to do so, when the chief, city council or board of supervisors finds that the conditions responsible for the issuance of the proclamation no longer exist.*
- 2. Violation of a prohibition issued under this section is a simple misdemeanor.*
- 3. A proclamation issued by the state fire marshal pursuant to this section shall not prohibit a supervised, controlled burn for which a permit has been issued by the fire chief of the fire district where the burn will take place, the use of outdoor fireplaces, barbecue grills, properly supervised landfills, or the burning of trash in incinerators or trash burners made of metal, concrete, masonry, or heavy one-inch wire mesh, with no openings greater than one square inch.*