

# COCHISE COUNTY

## Work-Session

Discussion and possible direction regarding the potential drafting  
of a Burn Ban Ordinance and Firework Ban Ordinance

Daniel S. Duchon, Director  
Emergency Management



*Public Programs...Personal Service*

# Why?

- Irresponsible burning may lead to increased fires and property damage
- Education and enforcement may prevent future wildfires



## Existing Burn Bans

- Tucson Interagency Zone Board
  - USFS, BLM, NPS, USFWS, DFFM – meet weekly during fire season to determine if fire restrictions are necessary. Stage 1 restrictions limit campfires to developed recreation sites. Stage 2 prohibits all campfires regardless of location. A shooting restriction can go with either Stage 1 or 2. Internal combustion engines are sometimes restricted.
  - Enacted jointly across all agencies
  - Decision based on:
    - Weather, number of fire starts (human and natural), number of firefighting resources as it relates to conditions, many other metrics (7, 30-day weather outlooks)
- National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service
  - Year-round Stage 1 restrictions on all their lands in Cochise County
  - Fort Bowie, Coronado NM, Chiricahua NM
- Burn Permits – issued by ADEQ, or delegated to:
  - Benson FD, Douglas FD, Elfrida FD, Fry FD, Huachuca City FD, Sierra Vista FMS, St. David FD, Whetstone FD, Willcox FD



# Burn Bans

- ARS 49-112 - Legal Authority of County to enact Burn Ban Ordinance
- Must decide scope:
  - Brush piles, recreational burns, warming fires, cooking fires, smoking
  - Compare/contrast to ADEQ burn permits – weed abatement, prevention of fire hazard or instruction in the methods of fire fighting



# Firework Bans

- ARS 36-1606 - Counties authorized to ban fireworks
- Existing Firework Restriction
  - USFS, NPS, BLM, USFWS
  - Municipal Restrictions
    - Bisbee, Douglas, Huachuca City



# Enforcement

- Cochise County Sheriff's Office
- ARS 49-501 - Statewide enforcement of ADEQ burn violations



# CY 2023 Fires

- SEACOM Dispatch
  - 345 brush fire calls
- Emergency Management Notification/ Involvement
  - 30 wildfire calls



# COCHISE COUNTY

## Major Wildfires CY2023

Date	Name	Agency	Acres	Location
3/29/2023	Texas Canyon	DFFM	455	Texas Canyon, south of I-10
4/2/2023	Williams	Palominas FD, BLM	1,320	Palominas Road and Waters
6/17/2023	Sonoita	Sonoita, DFFM	3,200	Santa Cruz County, Hwy 83 closed
6/19/2023	Baker	DFFM, Sunsites	600	E of Kansas Settlement
6/23/2023	Wild Horse	DFFM, Fry	747	Hwy 92, Wild Horse
6/23/2023	Post	DFFM, Benson	921	S of Benson, Hwy 90
7/20/2023	Adams-Robles	DFFM	5,232	Robles S of 10, Adams N of 10
7/29/2023	Wildcat	BLM	1,900	NW corner of County

