



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, March 25, 2019

Gadsden County Declares State of Emergency Due to Wildfire Risk

During an Emergency Meeting on Monday, March 25, the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners has declared Gadsden County to be in a State of Emergency due to the risk of wildfires, particularly with increased temperatures and decreased moisture and precipitation.

The declaration comes following two wildfires that occurred in Gadsden County, one reaching over 25 acres. Over 59,000 acres of timber is considered extremely damaged while approximately 184,000 acres is considered moderately damaged in Gadsden County by the Florida Department of Forestry.

Gadsden County Emergency Management Officials consider the increased risk an existing condition following vegetative debris left by Hurricane Michael. While Gadsden County is not under a burn ban, the Florida Department of Forestry requires Burning Authorization to burn debris larger than an 8x8 pile.

The duration of the State of Emergency declared locally is limited to seven (7) days; it may be extended as necessary.

To receive a Burn Authorization from the Florida Forestry Service, call (850) 681-5951.

For more information, contact Olivia Smith, Public Information Officer at (850) 875-8671 or OSmith@GadsdenCountyFL.gov.

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