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# MEMORANDUM

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Date: July 16, 2014

To: The Honorable Chair and Members  
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C. H. Huckelberry  
County Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CHH", is written over the printed name "C. H. Huckelberry".

**Re: Lifting of Temporary Ban on Fireworks**

On May 6, 2014 the Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution declaring an emergency and banning permissible consumer fireworks on unincorporated areas of Pima County, citing extreme risk of fire, unprecedented dry conditions and the fact that fireworks would exacerbate already dangerous conditions. The Board's resolution further authorized staff to lift the ban when appropriate.

Utilizing the expertise and experience within the USA Forest Service and the Arizona State Forestry Division of the Arizona State Land Department, I approved the lifting of the ban on permissible consumer fireworks on unincorporated areas of the County on Wednesday, July 16, 2014. The Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security is notifying all fire services organizations in Pima County of this action, and our Communications Office will disseminate this information to the public .

The resolution adopted by the Board of Supervisors on May 6, 2014 included a ban on campfires, charcoal-burning devices and smoking (except within developed campgrounds) on unincorporated lands. Like the State Forester's restrictions, Pima County's ban on such remain in effect until further notice.

CHH/mjk

#### Attachments

c: Jan Leshar, Deputy County Administrator for Medical and Health Services  
Mike Hein, Director, Office of Emergency Management & Homeland Security



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# MEMORANDUM

## Medical and Health Services

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Date: July 16, 2014

To: C. H. Huckelberry  
County Administrator

From: Jan Leshner  
Deputy County Administrator

Re: **Lifting of the Temporary Ban on Fireworks Due to Fire Emergency**

On May 6, 2014 the Pima County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution banning the use of permissible consumer fireworks on Pima County property, citing extreme risk of fire, the unprecedented dry conditions and the fact that fireworks will only serve to exacerbate already dangerous conditions. The Board's resolution further authorized the County Administrator to lift the ban when, in your opinion, the extreme fire conditions have abated such that a prohibition is no longer needed.

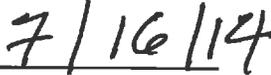
The attached memorandum from the Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security summarizes the actions taken by various governmental agencies. It notes that the U.S. Forest Service and the Arizona State Forestry Division of the Arizona State Land Department continually monitor conditions throughout the State to determine the risk to life and property. Based on their analysis, on July 11, 2014 the State Forester rescinded fire restrictions for all State-owned and State-managed lands, noting the onset of the monsoonal weather pattern throughout most of Arizona and the subsequent decrease in fire danger.

Relying on the expertise and experience of these agencies, I respectfully recommend that the temporary ban on fireworks due to fire emergency enacted by the Board of Supervisors on May 6, 2014 be lifted.

Approved

Not Approved

  
C. H. Huckelberry, County Administrator

  
Date

JL/cbc

Attachment

c: Mike Hein, Director, Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

# MEMORANDUM

Date: July 15, 2014

To: Jan Leshar, Deputy County Administrator  
Medical and Health Services

From: Mike Hein, Director  
Office of Emergency Management  
& Homeland Security

**Re: Lifting of Fireworks Ban Recommendation**

As you know, at their meeting of May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014 the Pima County Board of Supervisors prohibited the use of permissible consumer fireworks in Pima County property until conditions warrant the lifting of such a ban. The ban had the desired effect of preventing harm to the lives and property of the people of Pima County, in that no fires or injuries in the unincorporated areas of Pima County due to permissible consumer fireworks were reported to this office. The Pima County Sheriff's Department currently is enforcing the county ban from the time it was issued until the time it is rescinded.

With the arrival of the summer rains, the question has arisen whether conditions exist such that allowing the use of permissible consumer fireworks would no longer pose a risk to the lives or property of the people of Pima County.

On July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014 the Pima County Office of Emergency Management & Homeland Security (OEM) reached out to the fire service organizations within the County to obtain the benefit of their comments regarding the advisability of lifting the fireworks ban imposed by the Board of Supervisors. All of the respondents indicated that the fire danger has lessened, but advise caution with respect to the use of fireworks and fire.

Federal, state and local jurisdictions have imposed a variety of restrictions regarding the use of permissible consumer fireworks. The Forest Service has banned fireworks of any kind at all times. Campfires and other fires are restricted based on the Forest Service's determination of the danger of fire, which is monitored on an ongoing basis. The City of Tucson's ban on the use of permissible consumer fireworks is permanent. On April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014 the Arizona State Forester prohibited the use of any fireworks on all unincorporated state lands. This included a ban on campfires, charcoal-burning devices and smoking (except within developed campgrounds) on unincorporated state lands. Like Pima County's ban, the State Forester's restrictions are in effect until further notice.

The Office of the State Forester has informed OEM that it is working with Federal Forest Service agencies to assure that, to the greatest extent possible, restrictions on federal and state lands are consistent. During the July 10, 2014 conference call with the Bureau of Land Management, Coronado Forest, National Parks Service and the Arizona State Forestry it was decided that fire restrictions be lifted effective July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014 for the Southeast Zone. Notice has been posted on the Office of the State Forester web site, [www.azsf.az.gov](http://www.azsf.az.gov).

**Conclusion & Recommendation:**

The US Forest Service and the Arizona State Forestry Division (ASFD) of the Arizona State Land Departments monitor conditions throughout the State to determine the risk to the life and property of Arizonans from fire danger and has lifted their respective bans and restrictions. As mentioned in resolution 2014-51 the County Administrator can lift the fireworks ban when in his opinion, the extreme fire conditions have abated such that a prohibition is no longer required. I suggest that the County Administrator rely on the expertise and experience within these agencies and lift the existing ban on permissible consumer fireworks.