

# STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

## Office of the Governor



### PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, areas of the State of Mississippi are experiencing extreme drought conditions, resulting in dry vegetation and an increased occurrence of wildfires; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Weather Service's forecasted weather patterns statewide over the next ten days do not predict significant rainfall large enough to ameliorate the current drought conditions across parts of the state; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mississippi Forestry Commission has activated its Incident Management Team to help facilitate rapid deployment to wildfires; and

**WHEREAS**, the current drought conditions have created an increased risk of explosive and erratic fire activity across parts of the state; and

**WHEREAS**, on August 17, 2023, the Office of the Governor received a request from the Mississippi Forestry Commission to issue a partial state-level burn ban to include the following forty counties: Adams, Amite, Claiborne, Clarke, Copiah, Covington, Forrest, Franklin, George, Greene, Hancock, Harrison, Hinds, Issaquena, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Jones, Lamar, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Lincoln, Madison, Marion, Newton, Pearl River, Perry, Pike, Rankin, Scott, Sharkey, Simpson, Smith, Stone, Walthall, Warren, Wayne, Wilkinson and Yazoo; and

**WHEREAS**, in consideration of the health and safety of the residents and first responders and the protection of public and private property within the State, and in the public interest, all steps should be taken to protect life and property.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi, in consultation with the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency and the Mississippi Forestry Commission, and pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Mississippi Constitution and Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-11(b)(17), and in the public interest and for general welfare, do hereby proclaim a State of Emergency to exist across areas of the state affected by extreme drought conditions and, therefore, prohibit all outdoor burning in Adams, Amite, Claiborne, Clarke, Copiah, Covington, Forrest, Franklin, George, Greene, Hancock, Harrison, Hinds, Issaquena, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Jones, Lamar, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Lincoln, Madison, Marion, Newton, Pearl River, Perry, Pike, Rankin, Scott, Sharkey, Simpson, Smith, Stone, Walthall, Warren, Wayne, Wilkinson and Yazoo Counties, until such conditions improve and the danger abates as determined by the State Forester.


IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of August in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-eighth.

  
TATE REEVES  
GOVERNOR



BY THE GOVERNOR

  
MICHAEL WATSON  
SECRETARY OF STATE