

**PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER
MONTROSE COUNTY, COLORADO**

BAN ON BURNING

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a highly contagious virus that originated in China and has spread to numerous countries around the world, including the United States and Montrose County, as well as other counties and municipalities in Colorado; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the Governor of the State of Colorado declared a state of emergency in response to the presence of COVID-19 in Colorado; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a state of emergency related to the COVID-19 epidemic; and

WHEREAS, the Montrose County Board of Health has issued a declaration of emergency, and the Board of County Commissioners has also issued order to close all county buildings; and

WHEREAS, the Montrose County Public Health Director has the authority to control the causes of epidemic or communicable diseases and conditions affecting public health and to advise local officials regarding policies related to public health, pursuant to C.R.S. 25-1-506(3); and

WHEREAS, Montrose Fire Protection District and other emergency responders have limited resources available for response during the pandemic and deploying these resources to uncontrolled ditch and wildland fires presents an immediate threat to first responders and public safety; and

WHEREAS, the Montrose Fire Protection District, Olathe Fire Protection District, Nucla-Naturita Fire Protection District and other emergency responders have limited resources available for response during the pandemic and deploying these resources to uncontrolled ditch and wildland fires presents an immediate threat to first responders and public safety; and

WHEREAS, emergency physicians and the Montrose Memorial Hospital have advised that allergies and respiratory irritations resulting from burning ditches, agricultural lands, scraps, brush and slash are increasing visits to the emergency room and to care providers and diverting limited medical resources, including personal protection equipment (PPE) such as masks and gowns needed for COVID-19 responses to attend to these respiratory conditions, the Montrose County Director of Public Health has determined that a temporary ban on outdoor burning is necessary to protect the public health, safety and welfare.

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE DECLARED BY THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH OF MONTROSE COUNTY AS FOLLOWS:

3. Effective April 12, 2020 at 12:01 a.m. all outdoor burning, other than the non-commercial cooking of food in enclosed devices such as metal fire pits and backyard barbecue

grills, in the unincorporated area of Montrose County, excluding federally managed public lands, is banned until April 30, 2020, or as this order may be modified, extended or amended.

Ordered this 10th day of April, 2020

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jim Austin", is written over a horizontal line.

Jim Austin, Montrose County Public Health Director