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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Flagler County burn ban remains in effect despite rain

June 1, 2017 – Midweek rain did not bring enough relief for Flagler County to remove its burn ban, which remains in effect until further notice.

“It’s still very dry,” Flagler County Fire Rescue Chief Don Petito said. “We’ve had more lightning than rain. There are 29 small-acreage fires burning in Flagler, Volusia and St. Johns counties.”

Flagler County received about .25 inches of rain Wednesday, and .5 inches of rain and quarter-sized hail on Tuesday – mostly on the west side of the county in the area of Daytona North.

The Keetch-Byram Drought Index had zero change from Wednesday to Thursday, with an average of 525 on a scale where the driest condition is 800. Flagler County’s drought index ranges from 490 to 594.

During the month of May, Flagler County received .77 inches of rain in Marineland and 1.93 inches of rain at the Emergency Operations Center in Bunnell. Year-to-date rain totals are between 8 and 12 inches of rain depending on location.

“Normal precipitation for our region in May is 3.13 inches,” said Bob Pickering, Flagler County Emergency Management Technician. “Normal year-to-date is 15.07 inches.”

The burn ban prohibits the following:

- Open burning, including the use of fire pits and containers
- Charcoal-burning barbecue grills – including those at Flagler County Parks and Recreation facilities
- Throwing matches or cigarettes (or other burning materials) from car windows
- Parking vehicles with catalytic converters in high grassy areas

“We are really asking everyone to take this seriously,” County Administrator Craig Coffey said. “Do not let the rain fool you. The conditions are still very dry.”

The ban will remain in effect until further notice. For safety tips, go to www.flaglercounty.org/firewise.

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