



Benjamin L. Nielson
Fire Chief

Tyler J Rowser
Administrative Battalion Chief

Tyler D. Leavitt
Deputy Fire Marshal

North Summit Fire District
90 E. Center St.
Coalville, Utah

March 6, 2026

Mayor Rory Swensen
Coalville City
10 North Main Street
Coalville, Utah 84017

Subject: Request for Seasonal Restrictions on Fireworks and Open Burning

Dear Mayor Swensen and Members of the Coalville City Council,

As Fire Chief of the North Summit Fire District, I am writing to respectfully request that Coalville City consider implementing seasonal restrictions on consumer fireworks and open burning activities within city limits beginning **May 1, 2026, through October 31, 2026**, or until such time as conditions improve.

This recommendation is based on several factors currently affecting fire risk throughout Summit County and the surrounding region:

1. Elevated Wildfire Risk

Current environmental conditions indicate an increased potential for wildfire ignition and rapid fire spread. Dry fuels, warmer seasonal forecasts, and regional drought conditions contribute to an elevated fire danger earlier in the year than historically experienced.

2. Snowpack and Weather Conditions

Regional snowpack levels remain significantly below historical averages. Reduced snowpack and earlier seasonal warming accelerate the curing and drying of vegetation, which can advance wildfire season into late spring and early summer.

3. Community and Infrastructure Protection

Coalville is surrounded by wildland and wildland-urban interface areas. Preventing human-caused ignitions during periods of elevated fire risk helps protect residents, homes, infrastructure, and critical watershed areas.

These proposed restrictions would **not apply to permitted public fireworks displays approved by the City**, or to other activities specifically authorized by the City and the Fire District.



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Recreational fires that meet the requirements outlined in the **International Fire Code and local fire district guidelines** may also remain permissible when conditions allow.

The North Summit Fire District's primary responsibility is the safety of our residents, visitors, and communities. Implementing proactive restrictions provides an important tool in reducing wildfire risk and protecting the communities we serve.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I would be happy to meet with you or the City Council to discuss this recommendation and answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Ben Nielson
Fire Chief
North Summit Fire District