

**CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA
EXECUTIVE ORDER
EO – 01 – 25**

WHEREAS, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (the “Nation”) since time immemorial has exercised the sovereign rights of self-government on behalf of the Choctaw people;

WHEREAS, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is a federally recognized Indian Nation with a historic and continual government to government relationship with the United States of America;

WHEREAS, this Executive Order declares that extreme fire danger and/or high heat conditions exists within the following effective area(s) located within the Choctaw Nation Reservation (the “Reservation”): Atoka County, Bryan County, Choctaw County, Coal County, Haskell County, Hughes County, Latimer County, McCurtain County, and Pushmataha County;

WHEREAS, this extreme fire danger and/or high heat conditions is present in the following counties located within the Reservation and where serious injury or death may occur: Atoka, Bryan, Choctaw, Coal, Haskell, Hughes, Latimer, McCurtain, and Pushmataha;

WHEREAS, immediate attention is required to protect public health and ensure public safety within the Reservation’s boundaries;

WHEREAS, the Nation recognizes it is essential to protect Choctaw Tribal Members residing within the Reservation as well as the Reservation’s forests, grasses, ranges, crops, or other wildlands through preventing burning in violation of this Executive Order during periods of extreme fire danger and/or high heat conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma has determined that the public health and safety of the Reservation is best served by focusing tribal resources on preventing burning in violation of this Executive Order.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Gary Batton, Chief of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, acting under the civil authority and power vested in me under the Constitution of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma do hereby declare the following:

1. The aforementioned conditions constitute a threat to the safety and welfare of the Nation and the communities within the boundaries of the Choctaw Nation Reservation.
2. In response to extreme fire danger and/or high heat conditions present within the effective area(s) located on the Choctaw Nation Reservation: Atoka County, Bryan County, Choctaw County, Coal County, Haskell County, Hughes County, Latimer County, McCurtain County and Pushmataha County, the Choctaw Nation has determined that tribal resources should focus on preventing burning in violation of this Executive Order.
3. By virtue of this Executive Order, it is unlawful for any person subject to the Choctaw Nation’s jurisdiction to set fire to any forest, grass, range, crop, or other wildlands, or to

build a campfire or bonfire, or to burn trash or other material that may cause a forest, grass, range, crop or other wildlands fire within the effective area(s) of the Choctaw Nation Reservation (Atoka County, Bryan County, Choctaw County, Coal County, Haskell County, Hughes County, Latimer County, McCurtain County, and Pushmataha County) in violation of this Executive Order and during a period in which the Chief of the Choctaw Nation has issued an Executive Order prohibiting burning; *provided*, it is not unlawful if any of the exceptions to violations of burn bans apply as contained in Section 1403(F) of the Choctaw Nation Criminal Code.

4. Enforcement of this Executive Order may be carried out by officers of the Choctaw Nation Tribal Police and/or any law enforcement officer with a valid cross-commission issued by the Choctaw Nation Tribal Police.
5. Based on weather conditions and consultation with public safety officials, including officials of the county(ies) for the effective area(s) of the Reservation that have issued a burn ban, this Executive Order may be removed at any time during the burn ban period by the same method by which it was approved.
6. A State of Emergency for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Reservation is hereby declared.
7. The Chief of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma may take further action consistent with this Executive Order as needed and required.
8. This Executive Order shall become effective immediately for the following counties located within the Reservation: Atoka, Bryan, Choctaw, Coal, Haskell, Hughes, Latimer, McCurtain, and Pushmataha, and shall remain effective until removed.
9. The Choctaw Nation Department of Public Safety is authorized, upon consultation with the Chief, to post Notice to the Choctaw Nation website of all modifications and updates to the effective area(s) within the Reservation, including the addition or removal of counties from this Executive Order. This paragraph shall comply with Section 1403(C) of the Choctaw Nation Criminal Code.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand to this instrument on this 25th day of October in the year of our Lord, two thousand twenty-four.

DocuSigned by:

Gary Batton

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Gary Batton, Chief of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma