



MEMO

TO: Board of Trustees, Town of Grand Lake

FROM: Brian Kracke, CEO / Permit Technician

DATE: April 13, 2026

RE: Proposed Amendment to Municipal Code Section 2-2-9 (Fire Bans) Penalties

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to request a formal amendment to the **Town of Grand Lake Municipal Code Section 2-2-9 (Fire Bans)** regarding the assessment of penalties for violations. The goal is to move away from a fixed, insufficient fine and align fire safety enforcement with the Town's **General Penalty** standards.

Background and Justification

The current penalty for violating a Town-issued fire ban is set at **\$300.00**. Given the prevailing drought conditions and the critical fire risk forecasted for the upcoming summer season and beyond, this fixed amount no longer serves as an effective deterrent for high-risk activities, such as the illegal discharge of fireworks or unauthorized open burning.

In the interest of public safety, staff has determined that the current fine no longer serves as a sufficient deterrent against high-risk behaviors that could lead to catastrophic wildfire events, and staff recommends updating the penalty language to reference **Section 1-1-9 (General Penalty)**.

Proposed Regulatory Change

The amendment would strike the existing \$300.00 fine and replace it with the following language:

"The penalty for violating this Section shall not exceed the General Penalty set forth in Section 1-1-9 of this Code."

Impact of Reference to Section 1-1-9

By adopting this reference, fire ban violations will be subject to the following enforcement capabilities:

- **Increased Fiscal Deterrent:** Fines may be assessed up to **\$2,650.00** per occurrence.
- **Continuous Enforcement:** Each day a violation continues shall constitute a separate and distinct offense, allowing for escalating enforcement in cases of non-compliance.

Recommendation



Staff recommends that the Board of Trustees direct the Town Attorney to draft an ordinance reflecting this change to Section 2-2-9. This adjustment ensures that our fire safety regulations are backed by a penalty structure that reflects the potential gravity of a wildfire event within the Town limits.