



President Shelly reaffirms fire restriction, prohibits fireworks



Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly said there will be no fireworks allowed on the Navajo Nation in light of the recent Asaayii Lake Fire. He reaffirmed his fire restriction that was ordered on June 12. The restriction includes fireworks during the Fourth of July celebration at the fairgrounds. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.—There will be no fireworks display this year during the 28th Annual Fourth of July Youth Celebration and PRCA Pro Rodeo.

Navajo Nation President reaffirmed the Navajo Nation fire restriction and encouraged tribal members not to attempt lighting any fireworks due to the extreme drought conditions and potential for fire.

“Because of the dry conditions of our land and the recent challenges associated with the Asaayii Lake Fire, I have given the directive to restrict all fireworks on the Nation, including the Fourth of July celebration at the fairgrounds,” President Shelly said.

He noted that prevention of forest fires must be exercised during this holiday weekend.

President Shelly issued an executive order on June 12, mandating the fire restriction to be observed across the Navajo Nation.

The next day, a human caused fire near Asaayii Lake fanned the flames for the largest forest fire in Navajo Nation history, charring over 14,000 acres of land in the Chuska Mountains.

The cost of the Asaayii Lake Fire is in excess of \$8 million.

In addition to fireworks, the fire restriction includes provisions that any traditional ceremonies involving fire must be done through proper permitting with the tribal forestry department.

“The Nation cannot afford another fire,” President Shelly said.

