

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Northampton County Executive received a written recommendation from the District Forester requesting the enactment of a ban on all open burning in Northampton County; and

WHEREAS, the proposed open burning ban has obtained the endorsement and approval of at least 12 Fire Chiefs from various locations in the County; and

WHEREAS, the existing dry and dangerous conditions and sub-average rainfall have created a risk of fire in Northampton County; and

WHEREAS, said dry and dangerous conditions warrant a County-wide open burning ban for the protection of life and property in Northampton County; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Northampton County Council to enact an open burning ban; and

WHEREAS, PA law authorizes counties to provide for the imposition of a temporary County-wide ban on open fires (Act No. 52-1995, 16 P.S. § 13201).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by Northampton County Council as follows:

1. Enactment of Open Burning Ban

All open outdoor burning is hereby banned in Northampton County, Pennsylvania for a period of thirty (30) days from the effective date of this resolution, or until further resolution of the Northampton County Council, whichever shall first occur.

2. Open Burning Ban Definition

Open burning is defined as the ignition and subsequent burning of any combustible material (garbage, leaves, grass, twigs, litter, paper, vegetative matter involved with land clearing, or any sort of debris) out-of-doors either in a burn barrel (screened or unscreened) fire ring or on the ground. The use of propane gas stoves, charcoal briquette grills, or the use of tobacco in any form is not covered under this resolution. Campfires are allowed in fire rings that confine and contain the campfire in designated state, federal, or Department of Environmental Protection licensed campgrounds.

3. Effective Date

The provisions of this resolution shall be come effective at 12:00 A.M., on November 10, 2024.

4. Public Notification

The Northampton County Director of Emergency Management Services shall notify the residents of Northampton County of the open burning ban by:

1. Notifying the local radio and television stations of the ban;
2. Placing notices of the ban in both The Morning Call and The Express-Times, at least 48 hours prior to the imposition of the ban;
3. Notifying all Northampton County Fire Chiefs of the imposition of the ban;
4. Notifying all Northampton County municipalities of the ban.

5. Enforcement

A. This open burning ban may be enforced by any sworn police officer including, but not limited to, the Pennsylvania State Police and all police of Northampton County municipalities.

B. In accordance with Pennsylvania Act 52 of 1995, any person or entity violating this open burning ban shall have committed a summary offense and upon conviction shall be sentenced to pay a fine of not more than \$100 for the first offense, a fine of not more than \$200 for the second offense and a fine of not more than \$300 for any third or subsequent offenses. The aforesaid fines shall not limit any other remedies by any other authorities and/or entities.

C. Whenever a violation of this act occurs in a city, borough, incorporated town or township which has in effect an ordinance prohibiting open burning, the police officer may cite the violation under either the municipal ordinance or this County resolution. Under no circumstances shall the person be cited for violations of both the County resolution and the municipal ordinance for the same violation.

6. Exemption

Should the Code Red Fire Warning remain in place through the week of the Thanksgiving Holiday, the Easton High School traditional bonfire shall be granted an exemption so long as Palmer Township Police and Fire provide their written approval that they believe the bonfire can be held safely and without threat to persons or properties and will be properly managed by one or more trucks on site for the duration of the entire bonfire event.