



**SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
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911 Communication Center

Emergency Management Agency

Press Release

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For Release: Immediate

Countywide Burn Ban for Susquehanna County

(February 19, 2020, Montrose, PA) The Susquehanna County Board of Commissioners, in cooperation with the County Fire Chiefs and Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry District 11, has issued a resolution enacting a temporary ban on open burning in Susquehanna County from 12:01am Saturday, March 14, 2020 to 12:01am Monday, April 12, 2020.

Open burning is defined as the ignition and subsequent burning of any combustible material such as 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 or on the ground. The use of propane or gas stoves, charcoal briquette grills, or the use of tobacco in any form is not covered under county burn bans. Camp fires in campgrounds are allowed in the fire rings that confine and contain the camp fire, and where all flammable materials have been removed for a radius of five (5) feet.

Under the resolution, a violation of the ban on open burning is a summary offense; punishable by fines up to \$100 for the first offense, \$200 for the second offense, and \$300 for the third offense. The resolution is enforceable by local and State Police officers.

The ban is necessary due to the absence of snow pack, and a long-range weather forecast that calls for above normal temperatures and equal chances of above, equal, or below normal precipitation. According to the Bureau of Forestry, the greatest danger of spring wildfires is in March, April and May due to warmer, windier days. The Bureau of Forestry also states that the majority of wildfires in Pennsylvania are caused by debris burning.

Should residents have any questions regarding the burn ban, they should contact the Fire Chief of their local fire department.

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