

PRESS RELEASE

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“Bath County Issues Temporary Ban on Open Burning”

Bath County, Virginia – Andy Seabolt, Emergency Services Coordinator has announced a period of significant wildfire danger due to the extremely dry conditions found countywide in Bath County. Over the last month, unseasonably high temperatures and the significant lack of rain have created an extremely hazardous environment. Bath County has large areas of forest and wooded land. Dry fine fuels such as leaf litter have contributed to the fuel load; making for an even more dangerous situation.

According to the Virginia Department of Forestry, the fire occurrence conditions in Bath County are at a very high level. This means that fires start readily, spread quickly, their resistance to control is high, and there is the potential for large fires.

Even with the chance of some predicted showers Wednesday, the rainfall will not be enough to alleviate this condition. To protect the health and safety of citizens and protect the property in Bath County, a “No Open Burning” ban will begin immediately. This ban on open burning will last until the threat has subsided.

Citizens are requested to completely extinguish smoking materials before discarding them. The Emergency “NO OPEN BURNING” declaration prohibits outdoor burning of any kind. To include any debris, substance, or material as well as yard waste (leaves, brush, stumps, & limbs) and other related materials.

Any signs of a fire, including brush or woods fires, should be reported immediately by calling 911. Grasses and brush are particularly vulnerable to rapid fire spread. Keep all debris away from houses and open structures.

For more information, contact Andy Seabolt at (540) 839-7236.