



County of Caroline
Department of Fire-Rescue & Emergency Management

PRESS RELEASE

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Caroline County Department of Fire-Rescue would like to remind the citizens of Caroline of the statewide burn law that will go into effect on February 15, 2011.

The Commonwealth's 4 p.m. Burning Law goes into effect on Feb. 15th, which is the start of spring fire season in Virginia. Once in effect, the law will prohibit any burning before 4 p.m. each day. Residents should also be informed that it will be unlawful to have a fire within 300 feet of, woodland, brushland or fields containing dry grass or other flammable materials. The law states that the burn restrictions will be in effect until April 30, 2011.

A violation of this law is a Class 3 misdemeanor punishable by up to a \$500 fine. In addition to the criminal violation, those who allow a fire to escape are liable for the cost of suppressing the fire as well as any damage caused to others' property.

In 2010, there were 897 wildfires that burned 8,485 acres of forestland in the Commonwealth. This was a seven percent increase in the number of wildland fires compared to the number (837) of fires in 2009. Similarly, the amount of acreage burned increased 13 percent when compared to 7,494 acres that burned in 2009.

To learn more about how to protect yourself and your property, visit www.dof.virginia.gov or if you have questions please call Caroline County Fire-Rescue 804-633-9831