BURNING PERMITS SUSPENDED



Lower fire risk increases emergency responder & firefighter safety

Less human contact increases public safety

REDUCED FIRE OCCURRENCES = REDUCED COVID-19 EXPOSURE

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

- All DNR burning permits suspended and will no longer be issued (written or electronically)
- NO burning debris piles in barrels, on the ground, grass or wooded areas
- NO prescribed burning where DNR special permits are required
- Please note: small campfires for warming or cooking are ok but, discouraged
- Burning debris in a campfire ring is NOT considered a campfire
- If you fail to comply with the current fire restrictions or if your fire escapes, you may be cited by law enforcement

WHERE DOES THIS APPLY?

 Suspension of burning permits apply in DNR protection areas shown in orange and yellow in the map below.

DNR FOREST FIRE PROTECTION OUGLA SAWYER ONEIDA RUSK BARRON ST. CROIX MARATHON ARK OUTA-GAMIE Burning permit required Burning permit required FOND DU January 1-May 31* OZAUKEE COLLIMBI WASH. DNR does not regulate burning permit DANE *DNR burning permits are not required when the ground is completely snow-covered. GREEN Campfires for warming or cooking purposes do not require a DNR burning permit.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

- DNR must comply with state directives to reduce the spread of COVID-19
- Spring in Wisconsin has the highest wildfire risk (March May); debris burning is the #1 cause
- Yard clean-up is a tradition in the spring, many choose to dispose of yard waste by burning, increasing wildfire risk
- Responding to a wildfire increases the risk of COVID-19 exposure through crowding of resources and geographic travel of emergency responders and firefighters
- Many DNR firefighters and fire departments are teleworking; this may reduce the availability to staff fire suppression equipment and hinder emergency response time and result in rapid fire growth
- Eliminating smoke on the landscape aids those with compromised respiratory functions

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Avoid any activity that may result in a wildfire; wait until the restrictions are lifted
- **Find alternatives** to burning; contact local municipality for disposal options
- **Use caution with campfires,** hot exhaust systems or sparks from equipment, ash or briquette disposal
- Report wildfires early by dialing 911 immediately!

WHEN CAN I BURN AGAIN?

- Fire control officials will continue to evaluate state directives, resource availability and fire risk
- Additional Emergency Burning Restrictions may be implemented (all outdoor burning prohibited) if firefighting resources are stretched thin or fire weather conditions warrant
- Visit dnr.wi.gov, search "fire" or call 888-WIS-BURN (947-2876) for any changes in current fire situation
- Thank you for your patience and understanding!

