

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING OUTDOOR BURNING
BAN DURING DROUGHT CONDITIONS/BURNING PROHIBITED

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MIDDLESEX COUNTY, VIRGINIA, THAT THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCE IS HEREBY ADOPTED:

Section 1. Definitions.

Cumulative Severity Index (CSI): A drought index number ranging from 0 to 800; a continuous reference scale for estimating the dryness of the soils and duff layers. The system is based primarily on recent rainfall patterns. A rating of 0 defines a point of no moisture deficiency and 800 defines the maximum drought possible.

Red Flag Warning: A term used by fire-weather forecasters to call attention to limited weather conditions of particular importance that may result in extreme burning conditions. It is issued when it is an on-going event or the fire weather forecaster has a high degree of confidence that Red Flag criteria will occur within 24 hours of issuance. Red Flag criteria occurs whenever a geographical area has been in a dry spell for a week or two, or for a shorter period, if before spring green-up or after fall color, and the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) is high to extreme and the following forecast weather parameters are forecasted to be met: 1) a sustained wind average 15 mph or greater; 2) relative humidity less than or equal to 25 percent and 3) a temperature of greater than 75 degrees F.

Section 2. Declaration of Burning Ban.

The County Administrator is hereby authorized, at any time of the year, to impose an open burning ban on the entire county or sections of the county when the Cumulative Severity Index (CSI) as determined by the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of

Forestry reaches 500 and remains at or above the that number for a period of five (5) days or a “Red Flag Warning” has been issued by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Section 3. Burning Prohibited.

It shall be unlawful for any person, without a permit from the County Administrator, to set fire to any woods, brush, log, leaves, grass, debris, paper, trash or other flammable materials outdoors during periods of extended drought conditions when a burning ban has been proclaimed by the County Administrator pursuant to this Ordinance.

Section 4. Penalty.

The violation of this Ordinance shall constitute a Class 1 misdemeanor.

Adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Middlesex County, Virginia, on the 15th day of March 2011 as follows:

JOHN D. MILLER, JR.	Aye	
WAYNE JESSIE, SR.	Aye	
PETER MANSFIELD		Opposed
CARLTON S. REVERE	Aye	
FRED S. CRITTENDEN	Aye	

A Copy Teste:

Charles M. Culley, Jr.
Clerk