



Debris Burning: The #1 Cause of Wildfire in Virginia

Debris burning is the #1 cause of wildfire in Virginia. More than 1,000 fires each year are caused by debris burning. In most cases, the person responsible was burning outside state and local restrictions. Outdoor burning in Virginia is regulated from Feb 15th to April 30th. Debris burning is NOT allowed before 4 PM if you are within 300 feet of woods or dry grass.

Remember! If your debris burning gets away and becomes a wildfire, you will be liable for suppression costs and damages to property, including the value of timber lost.

Instead of burning, people are encouraged to consider safer and more environmentally-friendly options such as chipping, composting, recycling and creating brush piles for wildlife habitat. However, if you should decide to burn, there are certain precautions you should take:

- ☒ Keep brush piles small. If not completely extinguished, large piles can retain heat buried in the ash for days or even weeks and flare up on a windy day, potentially resulting in wildfire.
- ☒ If you use a barrel, ensure it is in good condition and the top is covered with a wire screen with 1/4" or less openings.
- ☒ Do not begin burning until you fully understand your local burning regulations, techniques and conditions for when it's the safest time of day and year to burn.
- ☒ Create a 10-foot clearing around any burning container or piled material.
- ☒ Keep burning containers and brush piles away from overhanging branches.
- ☒ Always keep a hose and shovel on hand. Make sure the water is turned on until the burning is complete and the fire is dead out.
- ☒ If you can, wait to burn until late spring after the grass has greened up and late in the day after the wind has died down.
- ☒ Do not burn on dry, windy days when the wind is more than 10 mph!



NEVER LEAVE YOUR OUTDOOR BURNING UNATTENDED!



Check out These Internet Sites for More Fire-Related Information:

- ☒ www.dof.virginia.gov/fire
- ☒ www.smokeybear.com
- ☒ www.firewisevirginia.org
- ☒ www.firewise.org
- ☒ www.dof.virginia.gov/fire/wildfire.shtml
- ☒ www.adcouncil.org/default.aspx?id=60
- ☒ www.fs.fed.us/r8/fireprevention

