



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, New York State has experienced an increase in dangerous wildfire activity and, as of November 12, 2024, data indicates that New York State is currently experiencing a high fire-danger risk due to conditions that are drier than normal; and

Whereas, wildfires are currently active throughout New York State, with two large fires in Ulster County and Orange County, and these two active fires alone have consumed over 5,600 acres; and

Whereas, due to a continuing period of dry weather conditions expected statewide in the coming days and an increasing potential for wildfires, there is great concern that wildfires could unexpectedly and rapidly increase, thereby endangering the health, safety, and property of New Yorkers; and

Whereas, the open burning of debris or brush and improperly extinguished and unattended camp fires are the leading causes of wildfires during fall months; and

Whereas, several factors enable wildfires to start easily and spread quickly during this time, including wind, the lack of green vegetation, and abundance of available fuels such as dry grass and leaves; and

Whereas, the increased potential for wildfires and elevated life-threatening fire risk may create problems greater in scope than local governments alone may resolve; and

Whereas, since 2009, New York State has banned the open burning of debris and brush statewide from March 16th through May 14th, a period that has historically been the state's high fire-danger risk period; all indications are that the current dry weather conditions will continue through November 30, 2024; and

Whereas, to ensure public safety and protect the forests of the state from the danger of fire, the governor is authorized under section 9-1101 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law to implement measures such as a high fire-danger risk outdoor burn ban; and

Now, Therefore, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim that until November 30, 2024, the implementation and mandatory observance of a

HIGH FIRE-DANGER RISK OUTDOOR BURN BAN

throughout New York State.

This burn ban prohibits the starting of outdoor fires statewide for purposes of brush and debris disposal, as well as camp fires and open fires used for cooking, unless otherwise excluded below. This ban shall not apply to:

- a. Barbecue grills, maple sugar arches, and similar outdoor cooking devices when used for cooking or processing food.
- b. Contained camp fires less than 3 feet in height and 4 feet in length, width, or diameter, such as campfires in a fireplace, fire pit, hibachi or fire ring.
- c. On-site burning of agricultural wastes as part of a valid agricultural operation on contiguous agricultural lands larger than five acres actively devoted to agricultural or horticultural use, provided such waste is grown or generated on those lands and such waste is capable of being fully burned within a 24-hour period.
- d. Burning on an emergency basis of explosive or other dangerous or contraband materials by police or other public safety organizations.
- e. Prescribed burns performed according to 6 NYCRR Part 194.
- f. Fire training, including firefighting, fire rescue, and fire/arson investigation training, performed under applicable rules and guidelines of the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services Office of Fire Prevention and Control. For fire training performed on acquired structures, the structures must be emptied and stripped of any material that is toxic, hazardous, or likely to emit toxic smoke (such as asbestos, asphalt shingles, and vinyl siding or other vinyl products) prior to burning and must be at least 300 feet from other occupied structures. No more than one structure per lot or within a 300-foot radius (whichever is bigger) may be burned in a training exercise.
- g. Individual open fires as approved by the director of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Air Resources, as may be required in response to an outbreak of a plant or animal disease upon request by the commissioner of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, or for the destruction of invasive plant and insect species.

G i v e n under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the
Capital in the City of Albany this thirteenth day of November
in the year two thousand twenty-four.



Secretary to the Governor
Karen Persichilli Keogh

Governor