

### **Extremely Dry Conditions Notice**

Due to the extended period of dry conditions affecting Towamencin Township and the potential for uncontrollable fire spread and wildfires, the township Fire Marshal is following the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources daily wildfire danger rating scale and the fire danger forecast map. The community should be aware of Towamencin Township's outdoor burning ordinance. It takes tremendous resources and time of the township's volunteer fire department to extinguish brush fires. If you should notice a fire, please contact 911 immediately as fire spread happens rapidly. Please reference the outdoor burning ordinance, wildfire danger rating scale, and the fire danger forecast map. Any questions please contact the Fire Marshal.



## **Chapter 54 Burning, Outdoor Township of Towamencin**

### **Ordinance**

#### **Prohibited acts.**

- **No person shall cause, allow, permit or maintain outdoor burning of garbage, household, business or industrial trash or similar waste products of every kind or nature, recycling material as listed under the Pennsylvania recycling Act of 1988, or Act 101 on a street or on public or private property, whether in connection with any building operation, in an open dump or otherwise, except as otherwise permitted by this chapter.**

#### **Exceptions.**

- **Exceptions for one- and two-family residential dwelling units only:**
- **The open burning of yard waste other than leaves shall be permitted on the premises only at a distance not less than 50 feet from any structure and so placed as to prevent the spread of fire to within 50 feet of any**

**structure, vehicle, or fuel tank, and the fire shall be set not closer than 25 feet to any property line nor shall be set within the right-of-way of any street, subject to the following restrictions:**

- The burning of yard waste other than leaves is permitted only on Saturdays and Sundays throughout the year and daily during the months of April, May, October, and November, but these time periods may be extended if in the opinion of the Fire Marshal inclement weather during the permitted months has resulted in an inadequate opportunity for yard cleanup.**
- Prior to any burning, the resident shall be required to notify the Township Police Department. 215-368-7600**
- No such burning shall be permitted prior to 8:00 a.m. of any day, and all fire shall be completely extinguished, including smoldering embers, prior to dusk on the same day during which it is ignited.**
  
- Such burning shall be constantly attended by a responsible person. During such burning, a water hose attached to an operable water faucet or equipment capable of covering the fire with earth must be in immediate readiness for use in extinguishing the fire. A water hose, if used, must be of sufficient length to extend at least 15 feet beyond the site of the burning.**
- The pile size shall not exceed five feet by five feet by three feet high. If additional piles exist, only one pile may be burning at time.**
- Flammable liquids may not be used to accelerate the burning of the pile.**
- The open burning of yard waste other than leaves shall not be permitted under this section with any other use other than one- and two-family residential dwelling units.**

- **Burning shall be permitted for recreational and entertainment purposes such as bon fires and campfires. Permission for such fires is required by the Fire Marshal at least 48 hours prior to the event. Contact the Fire Marshal's office during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for approval. 215-368-7602**

**Hazardous conditions.**

- **Burning shall not be permitted during periods of high winds, drought or weather inversion (i.e., hazardous air quality conditions) or during or in any other situation deemed hazardous by the Fire Marshal.**

**Violations and penalties.**

- **Any persons who shall violate any of the terms or provisions of this chapter shall, upon conviction thereof before a District Justice, be sentenced to pay a fine or penalty not exceeding \$1,000 and the cost of prosecution for each offense, to be collected as like fines or penalties and costs due by law collectible.**

**Questions may be referred to the Fire Marshal during normal business hours at 215-368-7602.**

## Understanding Wildfire Danger Ratings

<b>Low (L)</b>	Favorable conditions. Wildfire ignitions are unlikely. Weather and fuel conditions will lead to slow fire spread, low intensity, and relatively easy control. <b>Outdoor burning is safest.</b>
<b>Moderate (M)</b>	Cautious conditions. Wildfires may be expected. Wildfires will ignite and spread but are usually not difficult to contain. <b>Outdoor burning should be restricted to early morning and late evening while avoiding windy conditions.</b>
<b>High (H)</b>	Dangerous conditions. Wildfires ignite easily. Fires spread rapidly and are difficult to control under windy conditions. <b>Outdoor burning is strongly discouraged.</b>
<b>Very High (VH)</b>	Volatile conditions. Wildfires start easily and spread rapidly with increased intensity. Fires are very difficult to control. <b>Outdoor burning should not occur.</b>
<b>Extreme (E)</b>	Extreme conditions. Wildfires start and spread rapidly. Every fire start has the potential to become a large wildfire. <b>Outdoor burning should not occur.</b>