

OPEN BURNING ADVISORY

Shippensburg Regional Emergency Management Team (Shippensburg Borough, Shippensburg Township, Southampton Cumb/Franklin) and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources advise residents and visitors against open/outdoor burning. The advisory is based on the current drought conditions and the upcoming summer season.

Due to recent events last week and over the weekend, the Regional Municipalities are concerned about the weather (drought) conditions, which is the reason for this advisory.

Open burning is defined as the ignition and subsequent burning of any combustible material (garbage, leaves, grass, twigs, litter, vegetative matter involved with land clearing, or any sort of debris) out-of-doors in either a burn barrel (screened or unscreened), fire ring, or on the ground. The use of propane or gas stoves, charcoal briquet grills, or the use of tobacco in any form is not considered open burning.

Campfires should be contained within a fire ring and always attended to and extinguished before leaving. Campfires on the Michaux State Forest are restricted to designated metal fire rings at Caledonia State Park, Pine Grove Furnace State Park, and Mont Alto State Park. Always check with these state parks to see if there are specific fire restrictions before burning.

Before you light a campfire, consider these helpful tips:

- Clear vegetation away from the fire ring.
- Keep plenty of water handy and have a shovel for throwing soil on the fire if it gets out of control.
- Drown campfires with water. Ensure all embers, sticks, and coals are covered with water, stir thoroughly to ensure all organic material is wet.
- Feel with your hand to ensure all coals and embers are dead out!

Pennsylvania Statutes Title 32 § 314 provides that “...every person causing a forest fire within this Commonwealth, directly or by the act of an agent or employee, shall be liable to the Commonwealth for all expenses incurred by the Department on account of such fire.”

