



# MEMORANDUM

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TO: Fire & Rescue Agencies  
Communications Center  
Amherst County Sheriff's Office  
Amherst Town Police



FROM: Samuel A. Bryant, IV  
Director-Fire Marshal

RE: 4 PM Burn Law - Outdoor Fires Unlawful Before 4:00 PM  
February 15 through April 30

DATE: February 12, 2021

Virginia's **4:00 p.m. Burning Law** goes into effect on February 15. Briefly, the 4:00 p.m. Burning Law states that from February 15 through April 30 of each year, no burning before 4:00 p.m. is permitted, if the fire is in, or within 300 feet of, woodland, brush-land or fields containing dry grass or other flammable material.

The 4:00 p.m. Burning Law is an effective tool in the prevention of forest fires. Localities may have more restrictive outdoor burning laws.

## **Burning Law in Brief: Code of Virginia: 10.1-1142:**

- No burning until after 4:00 P.M. from February 15 through April 30 of each year, if the fire is in or within 300 feet of woodland, brush-land, or field containing dry grass or other inflammable material.
- Fire shall not be left unattended if within 150 feet of woodland or dry fuel.
- No new fires set or fuel added after midnight.
- Law applies to campfires, warming fires, brush piles, household trash, stumps, fields of broom straw and brush or anything capable of spreading fire.
- The law provides for a penalty of up to \$500, plus payment of court costs and fire suppression costs if the fire escapes.

If a citizen calls, please give this information to them or have them call the Virginia Department of Forestry at 434-946-7955.

More safe burning practices can be found on the Virginia Department of Forestry web site: <http://www.dof.virginia.gov>. Thanks and let's have a safe season!