

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Elizabeth M. Arnold, Chairman
Alan M. Hall, Vice Chairman
Judy Herschel, Commissioner

570-278-4600 (Phone)
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Rebekah Hubbard, Chief Clerk
Frances X. O'Conner, Solicitor

PO Box 218
31 Lake Avenue
Montrose, PA 18801

Resolution 2020- 02

Burning Ban

The regulations of outdoor burning in Susquehanna County:

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners are desirous of providing for the health, safety and welfare of the people of Susquehanna County; and

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners, in cooperation with its firefighting organizations, and the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry, is desirous of regulating outdoor burning; and

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners are desirous of protecting the people of Susquehanna County in every possible way from the dangers and threats of uncontrolled and unsafe fire;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that:

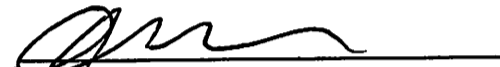
1. Burning Ban Definition – Open burning is defined as the ignition and subsequent burning of any combustible material (garbage, leaves, grass, twigs, litter, paper, vegetative matter involved with land clearing, or any sort of debris), out of doors either in a burn barrel, (screened or unscreened) fire ring or on the ground. The use of propane or gas stoves, charcoal briquette grills or the use of tobacco in any form is not covered under this act. Campfires in campgrounds are allowed in fire rings that confine and contain the campfire, and where all flammable materials have been removed for a radius of five (5) feet.
2. Prerequisite – Prior to the adoption, the County shall have received a written recommendation from the District Forester, who has received or solicited verbal requests from at least ten (10) fire chiefs or 50% of the fire chiefs in the County, whichever is less, from various sections of the County recommending and requesting the imposition of a temporary countywide burn ban on open fires.
3. Duration – Any burn ban imposed under this Section shall remain in effect for no more than thirty (30) days. The County Commissioners, upon the recommendation of the District Forester, may extend the ban for up to an additional thirty (30) days.
4. Construction – Any burn ban imposed shall supersede any municipal ordinance to the contrary.
5. Enforcement:
 - (a). Enforcing Officials – Any sworn police officer when available, including the Pennsylvania State Police, shall be responsible for enforcing the provisions of this act.
 - (b). Limitation – Whenever a violation of this act occurs in a city, borough, incorporated town or township which has in effect an ordinance prohibiting open burning, the police officer may cite the violation under either the municipal ordinance or the County resolution. Under no circumstances shall any person be cited for violations of both the County resolution and the municipal ordinance for the same violation.
6. Penalty – A person who violates this act commits a summary offense and shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to a fine not more than \$100.00 for the first offense, \$200.00 for the second offense and \$300.00 for the third offense.

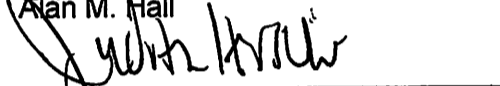
7. Effective Date – The resolution shall require a minimum notice of forty-eight (48) hours prior to the imposition of a temporary countywide burn ban.
8. Authority – Act 1995-52 of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
9. The County Commissioners, through the Emergency Management Department, shall send notice to all newspapers, television stations and radio stations that service the County.
10. This countywide burn ban shall be effective **12:01am Saturday, March, 14, 2018 through 12:01am Monday, April 12, 2020.**

Adopted this 12th Day of February, 2020.


BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Elizabeth M. Arnold


Alan M. Hall


Judith Herschel

ATTEST:


Rebekah Hubbard, Chief Clerk