

Talbot County Department of Emergency Services

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 4, 2019

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Talbot County Adopts Temporary Burn Ban

Talbot County, Md. (October 4, 2019) — By Administrative Resolution the Talbot County Council has enacted a temporary burn ban throughout Talbot County due to the moderate drought conditions and extremely dry vegetation. This burn ban goes into effect this morning, October 4, 2019, at 09:00 hours and will remain in effect until November 18, 2019, or until the Council terminates the ban by a separate resolution.

During this time frame, open-air burning is prohibited due to the high risk of a controlled burn rapidly getting out of control. Talbot County is currently listed as being in a “Moderate Drought” condition by the National Integrated Drought Information System.



COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY

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LAURA E. PRICE

AN ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTION TO ADOPT AN EMERGENCY BURNING BAN THROUGHOUT TALBOT COUNTY DUE TO PROLONGED OR UNUSUAL CONDITIONS THAT ARE CONDUCTIVE TO THE EASY START AND SPREAD OF FIRE

WHEREAS, drought or near-drought conditions throughout Talbot County have created an unusually dry period with record-setting high temperatures for the months of September and October; and,

WHEREAS, the National Climatic Data Center shows 55 percent of the United States is in a moderate to extreme drought that includes the Delmarva Peninsula. Vegetation along Maryland's Mid-Shore, including Talbot County, is extremely dry and prone to ignition as Talbot County endures moderate drought conditions; and,

WHEREAS, the number and scope of recent fire reports and incidents have increased, including a single wildfire that took nine fire departments over two hours to control, with firefighters in full fire gear in outside temperatures near or exceeding 95°F, causing severe stress both on individual volunteer firefighters and on available firefighting resources throughout the County; and,

WHEREAS, the Talbot County Burn Ban Committee has recommended that the County Council adopt a burn ban in light of the conditions described above; and,

WHEREAS, the exercise of sound and prudent discretion to protect public health, safety, and welfare, to conserve firefighting resources, and to protect the general public and their property from these increased risks and instances of fires, reasonably requires the County Council to be proactive by immediately banning open air burning throughout the County.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Talbot County, Maryland, on this 4th day of October, 2019, that:

1. The recitals set forth above are hereby adopted as findings of fact and are incorporated by reference as substantive part of this administrative resolution.
2. A complete ban on all open air burning is hereby adopted throughout Talbot County.
3. During the entire time this burning ban is in effect no person may allow, permit, cause, start, or continue, despite a request to discontinue, any open air burning.

4. As used in this administrative resolution, "open air burning" means burning any material in the open or in a receptacle other than a furnace, incinerator, or other equipment connected to a stack or chimney, including use of fireworks, sparklers, or sparkling devices, excepting lawfully permitted municipal fireworks displays.

5. The burning ban adopted by this administrative resolution shall become effective on Friday, October 4, 2019 at 9:00 AM and shall continue for a period of 45 days, and shall expire on Monday, November 18, 2019 at 9:00 AM, unless terminated or extended by separate resolution or legislative act before that date.

6. As used in this administrative resolution, the term "public officer" means the Chief Code Compliance Officer, his designees, and Talbot County Fire Chiefs and their designees.

7. During the entire time this burning ban is in effect a public officer having reasonable suspicion to believe that open air burning is occurring in Talbot County may enter on the public or private property of any person to extinguish the fire, and may confiscate any unused fireworks, sparklers, or sparkling devices if any such materials or devices have been involved with or used in violation of the burning ban. Nothing in this section authorizes any public officer to enter any dwelling, structure, or building.

8. This administrative resolution is subject to amendment or modification, including extension or termination by a separate resolution or legislative act of the Council as may be reasonably required from time to time.

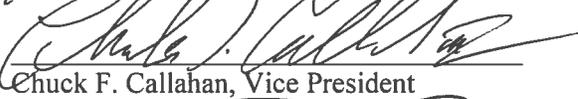
GIVEN UNDER OUR HANDS AND THE
GREAT SEAL OF TALBOT COUNTY, THIS
4TH DAY OF OCTOBER IN THE YEAR OF
OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND AND
NINETEEN.

ADOPTED:

By the Council October 4, 2019

Certified Susan W. Moran
Susan Moran, Secretary


Corey W. Paek, President


Chuck F. Callahan, Vice President


Frank Divilio

ABSENT


Pete Lesh


Laura E. Price