

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE _____

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SUMMER BURN BAN TO EXPIRE

SUFFOLK, VA (September 27, 2017) The Suffolk Department of Fire & Rescue Fire Prevention Bureau wants to advise citizens that the summer burn ban expires September 30, 2017. Open burning will then be allowed with a permit for the disposal of leaves and tree/yard/garden trimmings located on the premises of private property. However, no household trash may be burned, as well as any other unapproved material listed in the City Code, Chapter 38, Article IV. Failure to comply with a City ordinance governing open burning is a Class 1 Misdemeanor and can result in a fine of up to \$2,500 and/or one year in jail.

General open burning requires a permit from the Suffolk Fire Marshal's Office. A Burn Permit must be available on-site and may be suspended or revoked by the Fire Official. Burning shall be constantly attended and on-site fire-extinguishing equipment available. The location for open burning shall be approved by the Fire Marshal's Office. A Fire Official may order the extinguishment of any open burning which creates an objectionable situation.

Chimineas/fire bowls are considered recreational fires and are allowed by City Code. Manufacturer's instructions must be followed. Only approved materials may be burned (firewood) with a water source or fire extinguisher needing to be readily available. A safe distance from combustibles must be maintained. A device cannot be used to circumvent restrictions on general open burning, plus other Code requirements.

Recreational fires do not require a permit; however, it is encouraged for citizens to call the Fire Marshal's Office to discuss safe operation. Land-clearing debris may be burned under a different permit with different guidelines.

For more information, call at 757-514-4550 or email fireprevbureau@suffolkva.us to discuss open burning in relation to the City ordinance as requirements vary by situation.

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