

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 9, 2010



Contact:
Debbie George
757.514.4106
757.374.1770

UPDATE

SUFFOLK, VA (April 9, 2010) The Fire Marshal has lifted the ban on open burning. The statewide 4 p.m. burn law remains in effect.

UPDATE

SUFFOLK, VA (April 8, 2010) The burn ban on all open burning, executed by the Suffolk Fire Marshal earlier this week, will continue through today. Conditions will be re-evaluated tomorrow after the expected rainfall.

Suffolk Issues Ban on all Open Burning

SUFFOLK, VA (April 6, 2010) Due to a raised wildfire threat level in Virginia, Suffolk Fire and Rescue -Office of the Fire Marshal announces a ban on all open burning through Wednesday, April 7.

This ban comes after officials with the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOP) raised the wildfire threat level to Class 4 (Very High) for the eastern 1/3 of the state. Conditions (above-average temperatures, low humidity and elevated winds) were already ripe for wildfires during the past four days – and a number of fires burned several hundred acres over the weekend – but with temperatures expected to exceed 90 degrees Wednesday, the threat level increased from Class 3 High today to Class 4 Very High.

Under Class 4 conditions, fires start easily from all causes (including cigarettes tossed out car windows) and spread rapidly and with great intensity. Fires that burn in light fuels, such as grass, pine needles, leaves and twigs, may quickly develop high-intensity characteristics, including long-distance spot fires and fire whirlwinds, normally associated with fires in heavier fuels.

Conditions will be evaluated on Thursday to determine if the ban will be lifted

For more information on how to protect yourself and your property contact the Fire Prevention Bureau at 757-514-7540.