

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE _____

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Contact:

Diana L. Klink
757.514.4104
757.359.1845

SUMMER BURN BAN BEGINS MAY 1ST

SUFFOLK, Virginia (April 28, 2011) The Suffolk Department of Fire and Rescue's Fire Prevention Bureau wants to advise citizens that there is no open air burning allowed from May 1st through September 30th. This restriction comes from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, and was also adopted as an ordinance by Suffolk's City Council in January 2007 to improve the city's declining air quality, and to reduce the number of responses for refuse, grass, brush and woodland fires.

The open burn ban includes **all types of burning**, from burning in a barrel to commercial land clearing operations. The use of special incineration devices is also included. In Suffolk, failure to comply with the burn ban can result in a fine of up to \$2,500 and one year in jail, as well as a bill for extinguishing the fire.

Citizens are encouraged to take advantage of the City of Suffolk's bulk pickup service to remove yard debris, or to carry the debris to a local landfill for disposal. In cases where large quantities of debris are involved, property owners may want to consider hiring a contractor to remove the debris.

For additional information on open burning in the City of Suffolk, contact the Fire Prevention Bureau at 514-4540.

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