



West Virginia Division of Forestry
www.wvforestry.com
Joe Manchin III, Governor
Randy Dye, Director/State Forester

News Release: April 9, 2010

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OUTDOOR BURNING BANNED IN WEST VIRGINIA
Number of fires has almost tripled since April 1

Charleston, W.Va. – Gov. Joe Manchin has issued a ban on all outdoor burning that will take effect at 6 p.m. on Saturday, April 10, 2010. This proclamation will be in effect until the governor rescinds the order.

The ban includes fires built for camping, the burning of debris or for warming purposes; however, the following items are excluded from the restrictions:

- Fires for the purpose of chemical production, where fire is essential to operation.
- Fires for commercial land-clearing, such as mining, highway construction, and development: *Provided* that a permit is obtained from the Division of Forestry prior to burning.
- Training fires conducted under the direct control and supervision of qualified instructors at a training facility operated by a fire department or government entity: *Provided* that a permit for such training fires is obtained from the Division of Forestry prior to burning.
- Fires for outdoor cooking conducted for fundraising events and charitable organizations: *Provided* that a water source capable of extinguishing the fire must be present and a permit is obtained from the Division of Forestry prior to the operation.
- Grills, lanterns or liquid-fueled gas fire stoves.

Since April 1, the number of fires has increased from 108 to 283. The number of burned acres has escalated from 773 to almost 8,500. Warm, dry weather and windy conditions, plus an abundance of vegetative material like downed trees, limbs and leaves have led to these increases. Forty-two percent of these fires have resulted from escaped debris fires.

For more information about forest fires in West Virginia, visit the Division of Forestry's Web site at www.wvforestry.com.

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