

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
CHARLESTON****A PROCLAMATION**

By the Governor

WHEREAS, due to recent drought conditions, low water levels in many communities and an increased potential for forest fires, there is great concern that sufficient water will not be available to suppress structural and forest fires.

WHEREAS, such conditions exist in the counties of Boone, Clay, Fayette, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Nicholas, Raleigh, Wayne and Wyoming.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CECIL H. UNDERWOOD, GOVERNOR of the State of West Virginia, under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and by West Virginia Code §20-3-5, and subject to my continuing and ultimate authority to act in matters which affect the lives and property of residents of the state, do hereby proclaim a ban on open burning in the above-mentioned counties.

BE IT RESOLVED, in consideration of the foregoing, it shall be unlawful for any person in the aforementioned counties to engage in outdoor burning. This includes fires built for camping, the burning of debris or warming. The following items are excluded from these restrictions:

- Fires for the purpose of mining, highway construction, chemical production or other industries where fire is essential to operation; and,
- Fires for commercial land clearing. A pit burner is required for these fires. A permit must be obtained from the Division of Forestry prior to burning; and,
- Training fires conducted under the direct control and supervision of qualified instructors at a training facility operated by a fire department or government entity. A permit must be obtained from the Division of Forestry prior to burning; and,
- Liquid-fueled gas stoves, grills or lanterns.

The Division of Forestry is instructed to take all steps necessary to enact a forest fire readiness plan and to enforce the ban on burning as outlined in Chapter 20 of the West Virginia Code.

The Division of Forestry and the Office of Emergency Services will provide continuous information to my office and the public in regard to forest conditions. If severe weather persists, I reserve the right to extend the ban to additional counties.