



Roanoke County Fire & Rescue Department News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Restrictions on Burning in Roanoke County

4 p.m. Burn Ban over, other state-wide and local restrictions in place

May 6, 2009 (ROANOKE COUNTY) -- Although the Commonwealth's 4 p.m. Burning Law has expired there are other burning restrictions that everyone should be aware of.

It is true that the Commonwealth's 4 p.m. Burning Law, in effect Feb. 15- April 30, prohibiting burning before 4 p.m. each day has expired, but citizens should know that there are other burning restrictions that the commonwealth and local jurisdictions have in place. On June 21, 2006, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality adopted revisions to the open burning rule. These changes went into effect October 18, 2006 and restrict the use of open burning to destroy certain waste products during the months of May, June, July, August, and September in certain emissions control areas. The Western Virginia Emissions Control Area includes: Botetourt County, Frederick County, **Roanoke County**, Roanoke City, Salem City and Winchester City.

The seasonal restrictions apply to the open burning of waste for the:

- Destruction of clean burning waste and debris waste resulting from property maintenance, from the development or modification of roads and highways, parking areas, railroad tracks, pipelines, power and communication lines, buildings or building areas, sanitary landfills, or from any other clearing operations.
- Destruction of clean burning waste and debris waste on the site of local landfills.

In addition to the seasonal restrictions just listed, Roanoke County also implements year round guidelines on burning to create the safest environment possible for the citizens of Roanoke County. The county has classified certain urban areas of the county as no-burn areas. Anyone wanting to burn in the rural areas of the county must first contact the Fire Marshal's office to

secure a permit. There is no cost for the permit, but it is required for everyone. An application for a Permit to Burn must be completed either on-line or in writing and then a Fire Prevention officer will visit the burn location for an inspection. If the burn location meets the requirements listed in the application and no safety concerns exist, a permit may be issued.

Permits may be submitted on-line or in writing by visiting the Roanoke County Fire & Rescue website at www.RoanokeCountyVA.gov/FireRescue or by calling the Fire Marshal's office at [540-777-8732](tel:540-777-8732).

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Roanoke County Fire and Rescue Department is committed to providing quality fire and emergency medical services to the citizens and visitors of Roanoke County, Virginia. We are a combination department with both career and volunteer personnel operating out of 12 stations and one administrative office.