



**Loudoun County
Department of Fire, Rescue, and Emergency
Management
GENERAL ORDER**



Subject: State Open Burning Laws

Date of Revision: February 1, 2010

Date of Expiration: May 1, 2010

General Order: LCFR General Order 2010-003 REVISED

Approved: _____
Joseph E. Pozzo, Chief of Department

PURPOSE

To provide policies and procedures regarding open air burning between February 15 and April 30, 2010.

SCOPE

This General Order applies to Operations, Fire Marshal's Office (FMO) and Emergency Communications Center (ECC) personnel employed by the Loudoun County Department of Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Management.

POLICY

1. Effective **February 15, 2010** through **midnight April 30, 2010**, open air fires are prohibited between 2400 and 1600 hours (§10.1-1142, Code of Virginia and Section 307.1 of the Loudoun County Fire Prevention Code).
2. Open air fires for leaves, grass and brush are allowed between 1600 and 2400 hours **except** in the Towns of Leesburg, Lovettsville, Middleburg, Purcellville and Round Hill, where all open burning is prohibited.
3. Legally set open air fires are subject to all local regulations. Specifically:
 - a. Fires must be reported to the ECC at 703-777-0637 before ignition and when the fire is out.
 - b. Fires must be attended at all times, with provisions for control available, must not be added to or stirred after 2400 hours and must be fully extinguished at 2400 hours if not attended.
 - c. Legally set fires are allowed to smolder between 2400 and 1600 hours, provided they are attended and not added to or stirred. If unattended, such fires must be extinguished by 2400 hours.

PROCEDURE

- A. Generally, the Department of Forestry (DOF) will be the primary point of contact for enforcement of the open burning laws for 2010. This provision covers routine complaints and calls for assistance related to actual or suspected open burning violations. Operational requests for enforcement assistance are to be made directly to the ECC, who will notify the available DOF resources for response.
1. Where Department of Forestry (DOF) suppression assistance is required, the “on scene” DOF officer will be the primary point of contact for these requests.
- B. Where no DOF agent is available to respond (or arrival will exceed probable extinguishment timeframe), the duty Fire Marshal (FM) will assume responsibility for enforcement.
- C. When DOF is requested for assistance, the following order of notification is to be used:
1. Forester Bryant Bays (Forest 601)
Office: 703-777-0457
Cell: 571-271-8893
 2. Technician Chris Clayton (Forest 602)
Office: 540-347-6358
Cell: 434-906-0205
Pager: 877-790-8550
Alpha: 540-399-2237
 3. Mr. Terry Lasher, Assistant Regional Forester (Forest 603)
Cell: 540-270-2396
Office: 540-347-6305
 4. Forester Joe Rossetti, Fauquier Forester (Forest 604) NOTE: Radio identifier may appear as Forest 1101 due to assignment in Fauquier County.
Office: 540-347-6358
Cell: 540-359-1693
Pager: 888-921-2537
- D. Operational procedures shall be based upon the principals of “Unified Command.” DOF personnel who arrive at an incident in progress are expected to report to command. Prior to assignment, command will ensure radio interoperability and, if needed, assign a Loudoun County portable radio to ensure safe operations.
- E. Certain situations require the assistance of other DOF resources, mainly the tractor (Dozer 601), which is garaged at the Town of Purcellville maintenance shop for the 2010 season. The tractor and other specialized DOF resources (trailer, helicopter, airplane, etc.) are only authorized through the DOF contacts listed in this General Order. If unreachable, the incident commander is authorized to have ECC contact the DOF Central Region office (434-977-5193) for response authorization. ECC personnel are not to contact individual operators without authorization from listed DOF personnel or Incident Command.

- F. The Deputy Chief of Operations, Chief Fire Marshal, and the ECC Notification Mailbox will receive daily fire danger updates from DOF and other sources via email and through other sources such as their website. On high danger days (Class 4 or 5 or Red Flag), operational response for fires involving brush, grass or woodland may be increased at the discretion of the ECC supervisor in consultation with the Deputy Chief of Operations. The ECC will also provide updates as to the high fire danger information via pagers, MDC messages, CAD memos, and radio announcements.

- G. Any questions regarding waivers or special circumstances relative to open burning regulations during the effective period of this General Order will be referred to DOF at 703-777-0457.