



# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

Whereas, New York State is witnessing a surge in wildfire occurrences due to an unusually dry period that elevates the danger as fallen leaves accumulate and when additional forest fuels become available to burn; and

Whereas, due to a period of dry weather conditions expected statewide in the coming days and a trend of increasing potential for wildfires, there is great concern that wildfires could unexpectedly and rapidly increase, thereby endangering the health, safety, and property of New Yorkers; and

Whereas, the open burning of debris or brush and improperly extinguished and unattended campfires are the leading causes of wildfires during the fall months; and

Whereas, several factors enable wildfires to start easily and spread quickly at this time, including the lack of green vegetation, abundance of available fuels such as dry grass and leaves, and wind; and

Whereas, the increased potential for wildfires and elevated life-threatening fire risk may create problems greater in scope than local governments alone may resolve; and

Whereas, since 2009, New York State has banned the open burning of debris and brush statewide from March 16th through May 14th, a period that has historically been the state's high fire danger risk period; and

Whereas, all indications are that the dry conditions will continue through October 15, 2025; and

Whereas, to ensure public safety and protect the forests of the state from the danger of fire, the governor is authorized under section 9-1101 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law to implement measures such as a high fire danger risk outdoor burn ban; and

Now, Therefore, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim the implementation and mandatory observance of a

## HIGH FIRE-DANGER RISK OUTDOOR BURN BAN

throughout the State of New York, until October 15, 2025.

This burn ban prohibits the starting of outdoor fires statewide for purposes of brush and debris disposal, as well as uncontained campfires, recreational fires and open fires used for cooking, unless otherwise excluded below. This ban shall not apply to:

- (a) Barbecue grills, maple sugar arches and similar outdoor cooking devices when used for cooking or processing food.
- (b) Contained campfires less than 3 feet in height and 4 feet in length, width or diameter if contained in a fireplace, hibachi or fire ring.
- (c) On-site burning of agricultural wastes as part of a valid agricultural operation on contiguous agricultural lands larger than five acres actively devoted to agricultural or horticultural use, provided such waste is grown or generated on those lands and such waste is capable of being fully burned within a 24-hour period.
- (d) Burning on an emergency basis of explosive or other dangerous or contraband materials by police or other public safety organizations.
- (e) Prescribed burns performed according to 6 NYCRR Part 194.
- (f) Fire training, including firefighting, fire rescue, and fire/arson investigation training, performed under applicable rules and guidelines of the New York State Department of State's Office of Fire Prevention and Control. For fire training performed on acquired structures, the structures must be emptied and stripped of any material that is toxic, hazardous or likely to emit toxic smoke (such as asbestos, asphalt shingles and vinyl siding or other vinyl products) prior to burning and must be at least 300 feet from other occupied structures. No more than one structure per lot or within a 300 foot radius (whichever is bigger) may be burned in a training exercise.
- (g) Individual open fires as approved by the director of the Division of Air Resources as may be required in response to an outbreak of a plant or animal disease upon request by the commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Markets, or for the destruction of invasive plant and insect species.

Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the  
Capital in the City of Albany this first day of October  
in the year two thousand twenty-five.



Secretary to the Governor  
Karen Persichilli Keogh

Kathy Hochul  
Governor