



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
FIRE & EXPLOSIVE INVESTIGATIONS UNIT  
MARYLAND STATE BURN BAN  
INFORMATION BULLETIN**



On November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, the Department of Natural Resources for the State of Maryland issued a Statewide Burn Ban. The ban is in effect until DNR issues a lifting order for the ban following a period of significant precipitation. As of November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the ban is still in effect.

The ban affects all outdoor open fires to include firepits and the use of charcoal grills. The use of a propane grill is allowed however should be attended and not left unchecked for long periods of time. The use of smokers and outdoor pellet stoves are allowed if they have a chimney.

Maryland has enacted a statewide burn ban several times since 1988, 1995, 1999, and 2006 also less restrictive bans were placed in 1991, 1998, 2001, and 2002. According to the DNR website the bans have remained in place between one to eight weeks.

**VIOLATIONS**

Education is the preferred method versus issuing a citation to help prevent the unaware citizen from causing a large brush fire damaging property and potentially injure themselves or neighbors.

According to Maryland Natural Resources Article 5-720, violations of the Statewide burn ban will result in the issuance of a fine, 1<sup>st</sup> offense is \$300, increasing to \$500 for 2<sup>nd</sup> offense and \$1,000 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> offense. The violation can be enforced by Department of Natural Resources police and any law enforcement officer within the State of Maryland.

According to the Montgomery County Fire Safety Code Chapter 22 sections any open fire must be attended at all times. Violations of Chapter 22 can be issued as a criminal or civil citation by any law enforcement officer or sworn fire investigator.

**INTERFERENCE WITH FIRE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS**

Maryland law prohibits the interference with fire department operations under public safety article 7-402, a misdemeanor punishable by up to 3 years in jail.

**USE THE QR CODE TO ALLOW THE CITIZENS TO CHECK INFORMATION:**



**MD DNR  
WEBSITE**



**CHAPTER 22  
- SECTION 88**



**MD PS 7-402**