



October 16, 2019

Bedford County Department of Fire & Rescue

It is important for residents to be aware of an increase in fire danger due to the current lack of rainfall and subsequent limited available moisture in much of our community. Basic prevention steps can mean the difference in a small fire becoming a tragic event. Neither the Commonwealth nor Bedford County have enacted a local Burn Ban at this time; however, the possibility for one in the future does exist. Currently, we have had no increase in fire activity and are continually monitoring the situation. It is important to note that a Burn Ban does little to prevent a wild fire; it simply provides consequences if an individual does light a fire. *Maintaining a high level of situational awareness and being a good neighbor are great initiatives to prevent unwanted consequences for negligent fire management.*

Some fire safety tips to go by

- *Check weather before burning; if winds are strong or expected, **do not burn.***
- *When you burn, follow all traditional safety practices.*
- *Have a rake or shovel nearby.*
- *Have a hose connected to a water source nearby.*
- *Keep the fire small and away from any structures.*
- *If the fire gets out of control IMMEDIATELY CALL 911*
- *If you plan to light a fire, call the Bedford County E 911 Center at 540.586.7827 to advise the Communications Officer of your address and phone number, and that you will stay with the fire and maintain its safe size.*

