



Calvert County NEWS

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Calvert County Department of Public Safety Urges Caution When Open-Air Burning *Annual Burn Ban Is In Effect June 1 Through Sept. 1*

PRINCE FREDERICK, Md. – June 2, 2011 – As outdoor temperatures rise and summer approaches, the Calvert County Department of Public Safety encourages residents to be aware of state regulations regarding open-air burning.

In some Maryland counties including Calvert County, an open burning ban is in effect annually between June 1 and Sept. 1. The ban coincides with warmer weather when there is potential for poor air quality and drought. Backyard barbecue grilling or open fires for recreational purposes, such as campfires, are not affected by the ban.

Residents should take time to ensure that all safety and regulatory precautions have been taken before conducting open-air burning. Permits may be required for all open-air burning except for small campfires contained within a fire ring.

Tips for open-air burning:

- Don't burn on windy days.
- Have hand tools and a ready water supply on site.
- Never leave the fire unattended. Clear the area around the site for a minimum of 10 feet.
- Burn at a safe distance from your home, shed or other structures.
- Soak campfire coals with lots of water and make sure they are out cold.
- Never use gasoline; the fumes can ignite and cause serious injury or death.
- Hazardous items should never be burned. Properly dispose of hazardous items such as tires, plastics, aerosol cans, oil, etc.
- Check your local and state regulations before burning.

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Burning regulations are enforced by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Violations carry fines up to \$1,000 and/or one year in prison. The landowner can be charged with all of the costs associated with extinguishing a fire.

A brochure on Maryland open burning regulations is available at www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/fire/pdfs/openairburning.pdf. For open-air burn permit information, residents may call the local health department or the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service Office at 410-260-8531 or go online at www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/fire/firenotes.asp.

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Calvert County is Maryland's smallest county in land area with 213 square miles. It is home to approximately 90,000 people and has one of the highest standards of living in Maryland. Major industries include defense contracting, information technology, tourism, utilities, light manufacturing and administrative services.