

**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA**  
**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**At Charleston**

**A PROCLAMATION**

**By the Governor**

**WHEREAS**, due to dry weather conditions, low water levels in many communities, and an increasing potential for forest fires, there is great concern that forest fires could unexpectedly and rapidly increase thereby endangering life and property; and

**WHEREAS**, these conditions exist in the all fifty-five counties of this State; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jim Justice**, Governor of the State of West Virginia, under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and by section five, article three, chapter twenty of the Code of West Virginia, and subject to the continuing and ultimate authority of the Governor to act in matters which affect the lives and property of residents of the State, do hereby **PROCLAIM** that a ban on open burning shall become effective on the Twentieth day of September, Two Thousand Nineteen, and shall remain in effect until rescinded by further Proclamation. Further, I hereby **ORDER** that:

1. In consideration of the foregoing, it shall be unlawful for any person in the State to engage in outdoor burning, including fires built for camping, the burning of debris, or warming, but the following shall be excluded from these restrictions:

- a. Fires for the purpose of chemical production, where fire is essential to operation.
- b. Fires for commercial land-clearing, such as mining, highway construction, and development: *Provided*, that a permit is obtained from the Division of Forestry prior to burning.
- c. Training fires conducted under the direct control and supervision of qualified instructors at a training facility operated by a fire department or government entity: *Provided*, that a permit for such training fires is obtained from the Division of

Forestry prior to burning.

- d. Fires for outdoor cooking conducted for fund-raising events and charitable organizations: *Provided*, that a water source capable of extinguishing the fire must be present and a permit is obtained from the Division of Forestry prior to the operation.
- e. Liquid fueled gas grills, lanterns or liquid-fueled gas fire stoves.

2. The Division of Forestry shall take all steps necessary to enact a forest fire readiness plan and to enforce the ban on burning as outlined in W.Va. Code § 20-1-1, *et seq.*

3. The Division of Forestry and the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management shall provide continuous information to the Governor and the public regarding forest conditions.

4. The Division of Natural Resources, the Office of the State Fire Marshall, the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and the State Police shall cooperate in the enforcement of this ban.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.



**By the Governor**

**DONE** at the Capitol in the City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, on this the Twentieth day of September in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Nineteen, and in the One Hundred Fifty-seventh year of the State.

  
**GOVERNOR**

  
**SECRETARY OF STATE**