

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 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 West Virginia Code § 20-3-5, 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a ban on open burning shall become effective immediately on this November 4, 2024, and shall remain in effect until rescinded by further Proclamation.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; and
- f. Fires built for warming or cooking within fireplaces or fire rings at designated federal and state recreation areas: *provided*, that area managers have the authority and discretion to continue the ban on open burning within any designated areas.

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 West Virginia Code § 20-1-1, *et seq.*

3. The Division of Forestry and the Department of Homeland Security shall provide continuous information to the Governor and the public regarding forest conditions and the potential for dangerous conditions.

4. The Division of Natural Resources, the Department of Homeland Security, the Office of the State Fire Marshall, 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 Fourth Day of November in the Year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Four, and in the One Hundred Sixty-Second Year of the State.


GOVERNOR


SECRETARY OF STATE