

Dean A. Brewer  
Randy Karschner  
David M. Kovach  
Commissioners



David J. Witchey  
Chief Clerk  
Anthony J. McDonald  
Solicitor

## Commissioners of Columbia County

Court House, P.O. Box 380, Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania 17815  
570-389-5600 (TDD: 570-389-5745) Fax: 570-784-0257

### RESOLUTION 5-2024

WHEREAS, § 13201 of the County Code authorizes the County to impose a Temporary Countywide burn ban on open fires: Act of October 24, 1995, P.L. 332, No. 52, P.S. § 13201; and

WHEREAS, severe dry conditions have existed for a substantial period of time; and

WHEREAS, the County has received a written recommendation by the District Forester to institute a temporary Countywide burn ban on open fires; and

WHEREAS, the requisite number of fire chiefs in the County have Recommended the imposition of a Countywide burn ban on open fires;

NOW THEREFORE, it is ordained as Follows:

1. Definition – Open burning is defined as the ignition and subsequent burning of any combustible material (garbage, leaves, grass, twigs, litter, paper, vegetative matter involved with land clearing, or any sort of debris) out-of-doors in either a burn barrel (screened or unscreened) fire ring, or on the ground. The use of propane or gas stoves, charcoal briquette grills, or the use of tobacco in any form is not covered under this act. Campfires in campgrounds are allowed in fire rings that confine and contain the campfire, and where all flammable materials have been removed for radius of 5 feet.
2. Prerequisite – Prior to the adoption the County shall have received a written recommendation from the district forester who has received or solicited verbal requests from at least ten fire chiefs or 50% of the fire chiefs in the County, whichever is less, from various sections of the County recommending and requesting the imposition of a temporary countywide burn ban on open fires.

3. Duration – Any burn ban imposed under this section shall remain in effect for no more than 30 days. The County Commissioners, upon the recommendation of the district forester may extend the ban for up to an additional 30 days.

4. Construction – Any burn ban imposed shall supersede any municipal ordinance to the contrary.

5. Enforcement:

(a) Enforcing officials – Any sworn police officer when available, including the Pennsylvania State Police, shall be responsible for enforcing the provisions of this act.

(b) Limitation – Whenever a violation of this act occurs in the city, borough, incorporated town or township which has in effect an ordinance prohibiting open burning, the police officer may cite the violation under either the municipal ordinance or the county resolution. Under no circumstances shall any person be cited for violations of both the county resolution and the municipal ordinance for the same violation.


6. Penalty – A person who violates this act commits a summary offense and shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to a fine of not more than \$100.00 for the first offense, \$200.00 for the second offense and \$300.00 for the third offense.


7. Effective Date – The resolution shall require a minimum notice of 48 hours prior to the imposition of a temporary countywide burn ban. The ban will take effect on Saturday November 9, 2024 at noon and continue until noon on Monday December 9, 2024.


Authority Act 1995-52 of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

ATTEST:

COUNTY OF COLUMBIA

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David J. Withey, Chief Clerk

BY:   
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Dean A. Brewer, Chairman

BY:   
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Randy Karschner, Commissioner

BY:   
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David M. Kovach, Commissioner