



VIRGINIA'S 4 P.M. BURNING LAW GOES INTO EFFECT FEB. 15

MontgomeryCountyVA.gov

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Montgomery County, Virginia – The Commonwealth's 4 p.m. Burning Law goes into effect Feb. 15 – the start of spring fire season in Virginia. This law prohibits burning before 4 p.m. each day (Feb. 15 – April 30) if the fire is in, or within, 300 feet of woodland, brushland or fields containing dry grass or other flammable materials.

A violation of this law is a Class 3 misdemeanor punishable by up to a \$500 fine. In addition to the criminal violation, those who allow a fire to escape are liable for the cost of suppressing the fire as well as any damage caused to others' property.

“I think the greatest concern at this point is, regardless of recent rain and limited snowfall, we are significantly dry throughout the County,” said Montgomery County Emergency Services Coordinator Neal Turner. “The smallest of fires – and that does include those preparing to burn off their garden spots – can cause a major fire if not carefully monitored.”

Turner advises those living near wooded areas or adjacent to woods to use extra caution when burning and be vigilant.

If you have any questions regarding when and where to burn, or need advice on a burn situation, contact your local fire department or Turner at 394-2146, ext. 4158.

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