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Frederick County Health Department

# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## Annual Open Burn Ban Notification

**FREDERICK, MD** -- The Frederick County Health Department reminds county residents that there is an open burning ban in effect each year from June 1<sup>st</sup> through August 31<sup>st</sup>. Open burning permits cannot be used during this time period. This ban does not apply to small recreational fires such as campfires, barbeques, or gas grills.

The annual ban, which is required by the Maryland State Air Quality regulations, first went into effect in June 1995. The ban extends throughout the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Region and is designed to reduce the high ozone levels that affect the region during the summer months, allowing for better air quality. The ban is not related to rainfall.

Residents are also reminded that when burning is allowed, an open burning permit is required from the Health Department. Permits can be obtained by mailing an application and \$15.00 check to the Health Department's Environmental Health Division located at 350 Montevue Lane. Applications are attached to previously issued permits and can also be printed from the Health Department's website (<http://health.frederickcountymd.gov/344/Open-Burn-Permit>).

Open burning ban violations or open burning without a permit is subject to a fine of up to \$500 under the Frederick County Code and up to \$25,000 under Maryland State Regulations. Burning of household trash is not allowed at any time of the year. For additional information, contact the Community Services Office in the Health Department's Environmental Health Division at 301-600-1717.

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