

# 4 EASY STEPS

## RESEARCH

Find answers to when and how you should be burning safely.

- Is burning prohibited this time of year?
- What can be burned?
- Where can it be burned?
- What is the forecasted weather and wind direction/speed?
- Do I have the tools to extinguish the fire?
- Do I have plenty of time to attend the fire until it is extinguished?

## REPORT

Call Stafford County every time before your burn: 540.658.4440

## REMAIN

An adult must attend the fire at all times until it is extinguished.

## RECALL

Call Stafford County again once your fire is extinguished: 540.658.4440

## BURN LAW CODE REFERENCES

Stafford County Code: Chapter 12, Article V

4PM Burn Law: Code of Virginia § 10.1-1142

Virginia Air Pollution Control Board:  
Virginia Administrative Code 9VAC5-130

## STAFFORD COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

24-Hours: 540.658.4440

Office: 540.658.8648

[info@staffordfirerescue.com](mailto:info@staffordfirerescue.com)

[www.staffordfirerescue.com/fm](http://www.staffordfirerescue.com/fm)

1225 Courthouse Rd

Stafford, Virginia



## STAFFORD COUNTY BURN LAWS

Call before you burn.



540.658.4440



# WHY BURN LAWS?

Burn laws help to protect the public health, safety, and welfare by regulating open burning within the County to achieve and maintain, to the greatest extent practicable, a level of air quality that will provide comfort and convenience while promoting economic and social development.

## FIREWISE COMMUNITIES

Neighbors reducing community fire risk and hazards by following regulations, maintaining property, constructing defensible space and making smart choices when burning outdoors.

[WWW.FIREWISE.ORG](http://WWW.FIREWISE.ORG)

# TYPES OF BURNING

## PROHIBITED

The burning of garbage, refuse, construction debris, tires, trash or other forms of solid or liquid waste is prohibited at all times throughout Stafford County.

## RECREATIONAL

Campfires, bonfires, or other small, contained burning is permitted if the fuel consists only of seasoned firewood and burns for no more than 3 hours. Bonfires are to be no more than 5ft by 5ft and at least 50ft from structures or combustible materials. Campfires or warming fires are to be no more than 2ft by 3ft and at least 25ft from structures or combustible materials.

*Does NOT include grills, outdoor fireplaces, or other similar appliances used in accordance with manufacturer instructions and located at least 15 feet from structures or combustible materials.*

## RESIDENTIAL

Uncontained burning of on-site yard waste at a residence including brush, branches, grass trimmings or leaves is permitted in Stafford County subject to the following conditions:

1. The fire must be a minimum of 50 feet from any structure or combustible material and 300 feet from an occupied building (if you wish to burn within 300 feet of an occupied building, you MUST have written permission from those who occupy the building); AND
2. The fire MUST be constantly attended by an adult at all times; AND
3. Burning MUST be conducted in such a fashion as to minimize any nuisance to neighbors.

## LAND CLEARING PERMIT REQUIRED!

Open burning for land and site clearing operations requires a permit from the Fire Marshal's Office and is prohibited anywhere within the Urban Service Area of Stafford County. Such burning is also strictly prohibited across Northern Virginia during the months of May through September each year.

**VIOLATIONS OF THE BURN LAWS ARE  
CLASS 1 MISDEMANORS**

PUNISHABLE BY A FINE OF UP TO \$2500 AND UP TO A YEAR IN JAIL.

## "4PM" BURN LAW

In Virginia between February 15th and April 30th each year, open burning may only occur between the hours of 4:00PM and 12:00 Midnight.

**CALL BEFORE YOU BURN  
540-658-4440**

Notification to the Stafford County 24-hour Emergency Communications Center is mandatory for all open burning. This helps to inform citizens of special burning precautions, regulations, or weather conditions. It also assists Fire and Rescue personnel when responding to fires and other emergency incidents.