

INDIANA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



R. Michael Keith, Chairman
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Sherene Hess

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BURNING BAN RESOLUTION

The regulations of outdoor burning in Indiana County.

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners are desirous of providing for the health, safety and welfare of the people of Indiana County; and

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners in cooperation with its volunteer fire fighting organization and the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry is desirous of regulating the outdoor burning; and

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners are desirous of protecting the people in Indiana County in every possible way from the dangers and threats of uncontrolled and unsafe fires;

NOW THEREFORE, it is ordained as Follows:

1. The 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 or on the ground. The use of propane or gas stoves, charcoal briquet grills, or the use of tobacco in any form is not covered under this act. Camp fires are allowed in fire rings that confine and contain the camp fire in designated state, federal or Department of Environmental Protection licensed campgrounds.

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. This ban may be canceled at any time at the advice of the forester.

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 a 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 violated this act commits a summary offense and shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to any fine of not more than \$100 for the first offense, \$100 for the second offense and \$300 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; effective date of this resolution November 22, 2024.

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

Dated this 20th day of November, 2024.

INDIANA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



R. Michael Keith, Chairman



Bonni S. Dunlap, Commissioner



Sherene Hess, Commissioner

Attest:



Robin Maryai, Chief Clerk