



Bill Shepley, Chief Administrative Officer
(County Administrator) Grayson County

129 Davis Street
P.O. Box 217
Independence, Virginia 24348

Phone (276) 773-2471
(276) 236-8149
Fax: (276) 773-3673

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 27, 2019

GRAYSON, VIRGINIA DECLARES LOCAL EMERGENCY County declares local emergency due to dry conditions

INDEPENDENCE, VA – Grayson County has declared a Local Emergency issuing a ban on burning, effective 5:00 P.M., September 27, 2019, in response to fire hazard conditions that create extreme fire danger. This ban is the result of extremely dry conditions with no significant rainfall for weeks.

This **DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY DUE TO DRY WEATHER CONDITIONS** in accordance with Section 44-146.21 and 15.2-992.1 of the Code of Virginia and hereby establishes a ban on open-air burning for the County of Grayson until further notice by the Grayson County Board of Supervisors and putting on alert the response and recovery programs of all applicable local and interjurisdictional emergency operations plans should activation be warranted.

Experience has shown that suspending open burning is an effective way of preventing fire escapes and allows a quick fire agency response, especially as Grayson County continues to experience dry weather. Although all fires cannot be prevented through a burn suspension, their numbers can be significantly reduced. Grayson County Sheriff's Office wants to remind everyone that it is each individual's responsibility to help prevent fires that destroy lives, property, and our wildlife.

The ban on open-air burning is applicable to public and private property and will remain in effect until Grayson County receives sufficient precipitation to reduce fire danger.

Contact Grayson County Administration Office 276-773-2471 or Grayson County Sheriff's Office at 276-773-3241 if additional information is needed.