



# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

Whereas, New York State is experiencing dangerous wildfire activity and, as of March 8, 2025, data indicates that New York State is currently experiencing a high fire danger risk due to drier than normal conditions; and

Whereas, wildfires in New York State are currently active fires in Suffolk County that have consumed over 600 acres and could continue to grow; and

Whereas, due to a continuing high fire risk caused by sustained high winds and dry conditions from the Hudson Valley to Long Island, there is great concern that wildfires could unexpectedly and rapidly increase in Suffolk County or ignite in other areas experiencing high fire risk thereby endangering the health, safety and property of New Yorkers; and

Whereas, the open burning of debris or brush and improperly extinguished and unattended campfires are the leading causes of wildfires; and

Whereas, several factors enable wildfires to start easily and spread quickly at this time, including the lack of green vegetation, abundance of available fuels such as dry grass and leaves, and wind; and

Whereas, the increased potential for wildfires and elevated life-threatening fire risk may create problems greater in scope than local governments alone may resolve; and

Whereas, since 2009, New York State has banned the open burning of debris and brush statewide from March 16th through May 14th, a period that has historically been the state's high fire danger risk period; and

Whereas, the dry conditions may continue in the identified areas through March 16, 2025; and

Whereas, to ensure public safety and protect the forests of the state from the danger of fire, the Governor is authorized under section 9-1101 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law to implement measures such as a high fire danger risk outdoor burn ban; and

Now, Therefore, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim the implementation and mandatory observance of a

## HIGH FIRE-DANGER RISK OUTDOOR BURN BAN

in the following counties: Nassau, Suffolk, Richmond, Kings, Queens, Bronx, New York, Westchester, Putnam, Orange, Rockland, Dutchess, and Ulster, until and including March 16, 2025 when open burning of debris and brush is banned until May 14, 2025, throughout all of New York.

This burn ban prohibits the starting of outdoor fires statewide for purposes of brush and debris disposal, as well as uncontained campfires, recreational fires and open fires used for cooking, unless otherwise excluded below. This ban shall not apply to:

- (a) Barbecue grills, maple sugar arches and similar outdoor cooking devices when used for cooking or processing food.
- (b) Contained campfires less than 3 feet in height and 4 feet in length, width or diameter if contained in a fireplace, hibachi or fire ring.
- (c) On-site burning of agricultural wastes as part of a valid agricultural operation on contiguous agricultural lands larger than five acres actively devoted to agricultural or horticultural use, provided such waste is grown or generated on those lands and such waste is capable of being fully burned within a 24-hour period.
- (d) Burning on an emergency basis of explosive or other dangerous or contraband materials by police or other public safety organizations.
- (e) Prescribed burns performed according to 6 NYCRR Part 194.
- (f) Fire training, including firefighting, fire rescue, and fire/arson investigation training, performed under applicable rules and guidelines of the New York State Department of State's Office of Fire Prevention and Control. For fire training performed on acquired structures, the structures must be emptied and stripped of any material that is toxic, hazardous or likely to emit toxic smoke (such as asbestos, asphalt shingles and vinyl siding or other vinyl products) prior to burning and must be at least 300 feet from other occupied structures. No more than one structure per lot or within a 300-foot radius (whichever is bigger) may be burned in a training exercise.
- (g) Individual open fires as approved by the director of the Division of Air Resources as may be required in response to an outbreak of a plant or animal disease upon request by the commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Markets, or for the destruction of invasive plant and insect species.

Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capital in the City of Albany this ninth day of March in the year two thousand twenty-five.



*Kathy Hochul*  
Governor

*Karen Persichilli Keogh*  
Secretary to the Governor  
Karen Persichilli Keogh