



Resolution

Office of the Commissioners

County of Somerset, Pennsylvania

BURN BAN RESOLUTION

THE REGULATIONS OF OUTDOOR BURNING IN SOMERSET COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

NOW THEREFORE, it is ordained as Follows:

1. *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, (screened or unscreened) fire ring, or on the ground. The use of propane or gas stoves, charcoal briquette grills, or the use of tobacco in any form is not covered under this act. *Campfires in campgrounds are allowed in fire rings that confine and contain the campfire, and where all flammable materials have been removed for a radius of 5 feet.*
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 (10) 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 thirty (30) days. The county commissioners, upon the recommendation of the district forester may extend the ban for up to an additional thirty (30) days.
4. *Construction* – Any burn ban imposed shall supersede any municipal ordinance to the contrary.
5. *Effective Date* – The resolution shall require a minimum notice of 48 hours prior to the imposition of a temporary countywide burn ban.

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

ADOPTED this 24th day of September 2025.



SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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BRIAN K. FOCHTMAN, Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Irvin H. Kimmel, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line.

IRVIN H. KIMMEL, JR., Vice Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pamela Tokarickes", is written over a horizontal line.

PAMELA TOKARICKES, Secretary

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott Dearmitt", is written over a horizontal line.

SCOTT DEARMITT, Chief Clerk