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County Executive Bob Culver ISSUES BURN BAN FOR WICOMICO COUNTY

Due to drought conditions, County Executive Bob Culver has issued a burn ban order for Wicomico County effective October 3, 2019 at 12:00 PM. Culver took the action on the advice of his Burn Ban Committee. The group is composed of representatives of the County Health Department, the Forestry Service, County Department of Emergency Services, fire fighters, county code enforcement and National Weather Service meteorologists.

The executive has the authority to issue a ban for 7 days. Culver said that he expects the dry conditions to continue into the foreseeable future and will recommend to the county council that they extend the ban indefinitely until weather conditions warrant a re-assessment by the Burn Ban Committee.

All outdoor burning is prohibited with the following exemptions:

- 1) Gas and charcoal grill for their proper use;
- 2) Campfires at Roaring Point and Sandy Hill campgrounds which must be monitored at all times. All such campfires shall be confined to designated fire rings, grills, fire pits, fireplaces or other facilities constructed for fires. Before breaking camp, fires should be drowned and completely extinguished.
- 3) Recreational campfires on private property and public campgrounds are permitted. The campfires are limited to a size of 2 feet in width and 3 feet in height;
- 4) The staging of professional fireworks displays.

Burn ban violations carry a \$500 fine per incident. County Planning & Zoning administers Burn Ban enforcement. Citizens may call 410-548-4860 to report violations during regular business hours. At other times, citizens may call the Sheriff's Office at 410-548-4891.

Culver urges all residents to practice caution while engaging in the exempted burning practices, saying, "I suggest that citizens keep a garden hose and fire extinguisher nearby while using their gas or charcoal grills or enjoying a recreational fire. Also, all fires should be completely extinguished and should never be left unsupervised."

Culver added that all burning permits are voided for the duration of the Burn Ban and that the Health Department will not be issuing burning permits until further notice.