

OUTDOOR BURNING ADVISORY

Due to the extended drought conditions, the Erie County Executive, Erie County Department of Public Safety and the Pennsylvania DCNR - Bureau of Forestry advise using **extreme caution** when starting any outdoor fire!

If you choose to start an outdoor fire, make sure you :

- Clear vegetation around the fire area
- Keep hand tools and plenty of water on site
- When extinguishing the fire, drown with water, stir ashes with a hand tool, then make sure all coals and embers are completely out and cool to the touch --- Repeat as necessary

Pennsylvania Statutes Title 32 § 314 states: "...every person causing a forest fire within this Commonwealth, shall be liable to the Commonwealth for all expenses incurred by the Department on account of such fire."

What this means: If you start a wildfire, you may be responsible for all suppression costs incurred to extinguishing that wildfire, which may include manpower and equipment costs for volunteer fire companies, forest fire wardens, DCNR and other state agencies, including aircraft costs. This could be thousands of dollars. Also if that wildfire causes damage to someone else's property you may also have criminal charges or additional civil expenses.

