

**DOUGLAS TOWNSHIP
BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
RESOLUTION 2025-11**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF DOUGLASS, BERKS COUNTY,
IMPOSING A TEMPORARY TOWNSHIP WIDE BURN BAN ON OPEN FIRES**

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors are desirous of providing for the health, safety and welfare of the people of Douglass Township; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors in cooperation with its volunteer fire fighting organizations are desirous of regulating the outdoor burning; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors are desirous of protecting the people of Douglass Township in every possible way from the dangers and threats of uncontrolled and unsafe fires; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors have received or solicited written and/or verbal requests from the fire chiefs designated for Douglass Township, recommending and requesting the imposition of a temporary township wide burn ban on open fires; and

WHEREAS, the fire chiefs report extreme risk for uncontrolled fire spread due to dry conditions, lack of precipitation, and high winds; and

WHEREAS, under Act 1995-52 of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, found at 16 P.S. Section 13201-13204, the Board of Supervisors are authorized to provide for the imposition of a temporary township wide burn ban on open fires.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. A township wide burn ban on open fires is imposed starting on the effective date indicated below. It will remain in effect for 30 days, unless extended by an additional resolution.
2. Definition: Open fires are 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) outdoors in either a burn barrel, (screened or unscreened) fire ring, or on the ground. The use of propane or gas stoves, charcoal briquet grills, or the use of tobacco in any form is not covered under this definition. 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.
3. This burn ban shall supersede any municipal ordinance to the contrary.

4. Enforcement

- a) Enforcing officials - Any sworn police officer when available, including the Pennsylvania State Police, shall be responsible for enforcing the provisions of this act.
 - b) Limitation - Whenever a violation of this act occurs in a municipality which has in effect an ordinance prohibiting open burning, the police officer may cite the violation under either the municipal ordinance or the resolution. Under no circumstances shall any person be cited for violations of both the resolution and the municipal ordinance for the same violation.
5. Penalty - A person who violates this act commits a summary offense and shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to a fine of not more than \$100 for the first offense, \$200 for the second offense and \$300 for the third offense.
6. Copies of this resolution will be distributed via media outlets.
7. Effective Date - This temporary township burn ban will take effect On Monday, March 28, 2025. The ban is in effect though April 27, 2025.

ADOPTED as a Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of Douglass Township this 28th day of March 2025.

DOUGLASS TOWNSHIP

Attest: Kaleena Breitbarth
By: Kaleena Breitbarth
Township Manager/Secretary

Ronald Mest Jr
By: Ronald Mest Jr. Chairman

By: Robert Palko Vice Chairman

John Bauman
By: John Bauman Member

Signature: Ronald Mest Jr.
Ronald Mest Jr. (Mar 28, 2025 14:27 EDT)
Email: rmest@dougberks.com

Signature:
Email: rpalko@dougberks.com

Signature: John Bauman
John Bauman (Mar 28, 2025 14:26 EDT)
Email: jbauman@dougberks.com

Signature: Kaleena Breitbarth
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