



COUNTRYSIDE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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www.countrysidefire.com

Chuck Smith, Chief

Francis L. Wolowic, President

April 7, 2020

Dear CFPD Residents,

With open burn season upon Countryside Fire Protection District residents, there are concerns that smoke pollution will only make the COVID-19 pandemic worse. It is for this reason that we would like to inform our residents that Countryside has enacted a district-wide open burn and controlled burn ban for the duration of the spring burning season (through June 1, 2020). All previously issued controlled burn permits are no longer valid for this time period.

Based upon available information from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), those at high-risk for severe illness from COVID-19 include people of all ages with underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, people with chronic lung disease and/or people with moderate to severe asthma. As such, people with respiratory illnesses/diseases need to be as healthy as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic as smoke and contaminants could exasperate some residents' respiratory issues and compromise their ability to fend off the Coronavirus. Also, while some people with COVID-19 are currently hospitalized, most patients have self-quarantined at home and smoke from a nearby outdoor burn could worsen their condition.

What is more, with the increase of sick patients in our community due to the COVID-19 pandemic and other medical emergencies, CFPD'S resources will already be taxed. Responding to open burning complaints, uncontrolled open burns or grass fires would be using valuable resources that would be better served helping the ill during the pandemic.

To avoid additional health impacts on our community, district residents are being asked to refrain from conducting any outdoor burning activities until the ban has been lifted. We appreciate your patience and understanding. We are all in this together!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chuck Smith".

Chuck Smith
Fire Chief

