



## YORK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY

### *Open Burning of LEAVES ONLY*

- Burning shall not be conducted closer than 50 feet to any structure, and provisions shall be made to ensure that fire does not spread to closer than 50 feet of any structure. In addition, burning shall not be conducted closer than 250 feet from any occupied dwelling other than a dwelling located on the property where the leaf burning is being conducted (but not closer than 50 feet to any structure).
- Leaf burning shall be conducted in small piles (i.e., approximately three feet in diameter in a cleared area ten feet in diameter).
- Leaf burning shall be attended constantly until the fire is completely extinguished.
- Water, sand, dirt, or fire extinguishers sufficient to completely extinguish the fire shall be available at the burn site at all times. A charged water hose, one that is connected to a water source, is preferred, and rake(s) and shovel(s) should also be available to control the burn pile.
- Burning shall not occur in roadside ditches, on any public or private road, nor in any public or private drainage facility.
- If burning is determined to be a nuisance and/or hazardous, etc., it may be ordered to be extinguished.
- Between February 15 and April 30, State forest laws prohibit open burning before 4:00 p.m. (residents may burn only until 9:00 p.m. and meet the requirements in this listing).
- Burning should not be conducted during windy and/or dry periods.
- Burning is prohibited on local, state, and federal legal holidays and Sundays. Burning is also prohibited between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m.
- Open burning is permitted for camp fires or other fires that are used solely for recreational purposes, for ceremonial purposes, for outdoor non-commercial preparation of food, and for warming of outdoor workers. The public should contact the Department of Fire and Life Safety for guidance.
- Open burning of tree, yard, and garden trimmings collected by the County through regular roadside collections is prohibited.
- Open burning is not permitted for the disposal of household refuse by homeowners or tenants. Open burning shall not occur in environmentally sensitive areas.
- Violators of open burning regulations are subject to fines. In addition, if a fire gets out of control, those responsible may be liable for damages.

For authorization of other types of open burning (land clearing, bonfires, etc.), contact the Department of Fire and Life Safety at 757-890-3600, weekdays from 8:15 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., except holidays.

An alternative to burning is to have debris (including leaves) picked up by your collection service or taken to the Waste Management Center. For more information, please contact the Waste Management Center at 757-890-3780.