



Virginia Department of Forestry

Virginia Wildfire Situation – As of 10:30 a.m. 11/17/2016

*** Important Weather Alert ***

The National Weather Service is predicting a cold front passage with high winds over most of the western third of Virginia. Winds are predicted to be up to 50MPH from the northwest and will begin Saturday morning. Winds will continue until early Sunday morning before moderating. After the wind event, some rainfall is possible with amounts from 2/10ths to 3/10ths of an inch with a coverage area west of the Bland/Carroll county line. There is a possibility there could be mixed precipitation of rain/snow.

Current Situation

The Virginia Department of Forestry has two active wildfire incidents.

- ◆ Clinch Mountain Fire: Washington/Russell county line, 882 acres, 100% contained. The fire threatened a total of four homes and nine other structures. One VDOF engine, two VDOF tractor-plow units, 16 VDOF personnel plus the assistance of the local volunteer fire departments were on scene this morning. Responders were successful in completing all of the needed containment lines last night and planned to complete any remaining burnout operations this morning as well as the mop-up process.
- ◆ Buchanan County: Responders are on the scene of one new wildfire. No further information on this fire is available at this time.

The VDOF is moving a dozen personnel and equipment resources out of central and eastern Virginia today to assist with the ongoing wildfire activity in far S.W. Virginia.

Over the last 24 hours, the VDOF suppressed seven wildfires for 797 acres. Seventeen homes and 19 other structures, with a total estimated value of more than \$3 million, were directly protected as a result of agency response efforts yesterday.

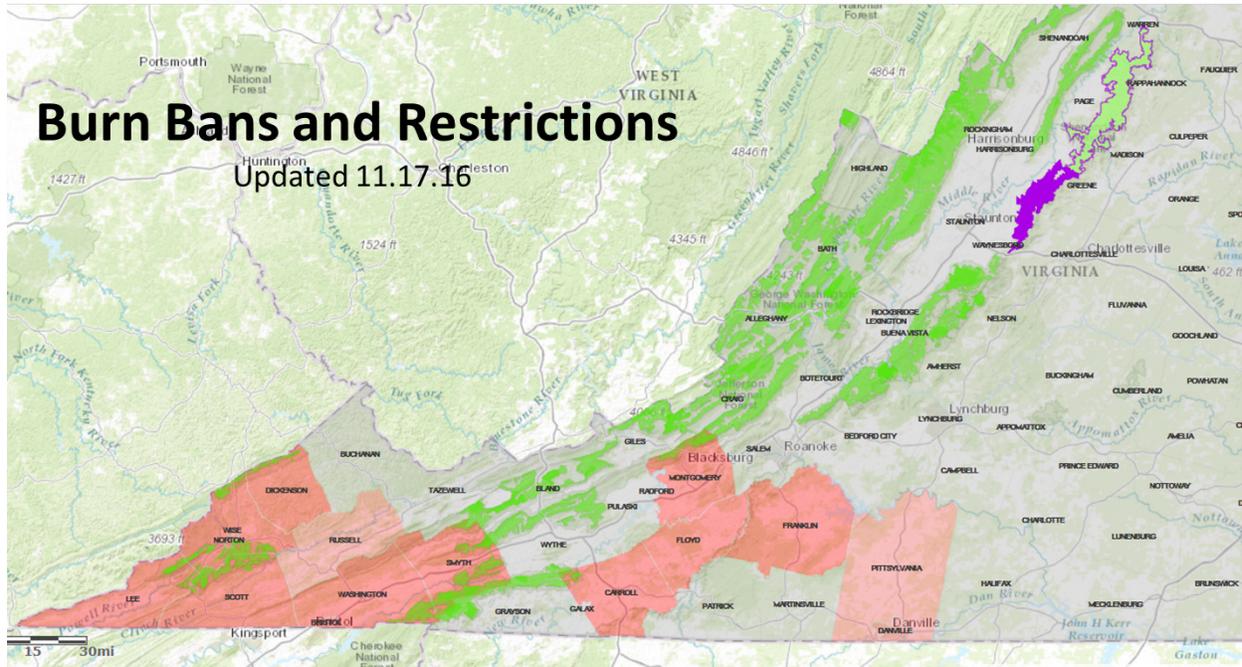
Since October 15, the VDOF has suppressed 84 wildfires that have burned a total of 3,104 acres, damaged four homes and 17 other structures. Over this same period, agency response efforts protected 126 homes and 134 other structures with a total estimated value of more than \$15 million.

The US Forest Service is managing two wildfires on National Forest lands along the Virginia/Kentucky state line, which are of little continued threat to Virginia. As of this morning, the Ravens Rock fire is 2,402 acres and 89% contained, and the West Chaparral fire is 125 acres and 90% contained.

Our Federal Cooperators' burn bans and restrictions are not expected to change beyond the entire GW/JEFF NF, the Southern end of the Shenandoah NP and the entire Blue Ridge Parkway. However, the number of local county and town restrictions is expected to change as the situation continues.

Burn Bans and Restrictions

-  County
-  Shenandoah National Park(South District)
-  Blue Ridge Parkway
-  George Washington / Jefferson National Forest



County/Locality Burning Ban

Because of the increased risk of wildfires, several counties have used their authority to enact a burning ban using Code of Virginia § [44-146.21](#) and § [15.2-922.1](#), which covers all state and private lands.

§ 44-146.21. Declaration of local emergency

A. A local emergency may be declared by the local director of emergency management with the consent of the governing body of the political subdivision. In the event the governing body cannot convene due to the disaster or other exigent circumstances, the director, or in his absence, the deputy director, or in the absence of both the director and deputy director, any member of the governing body may declare the existence of a local emergency, subject to confirmation by the governing body at its next regularly scheduled meeting or at a special meeting within 45 days of the declaration, whichever occurs first.

§ 15.2-922.1. Regulating or prohibiting the making of fires

A. Any city or town may by ordinance regulate or prohibit the making of fires in streets, alleys, and other public places and regulate the making of fires on private property.

B. In addition to the authority provided under § [27-98](#), any county may by ordinance regulate or prohibit the making of fires in streets, alleys, and other public places and, when a declared emergency exists, pursuant to § [44-146.21](#), regulate the making of fires on private property.

George Washington and Jefferson National Forests Announce Burn Ban

Open Fires prohibited in the George Washington & Jefferson National Forests

Date(s): Nov 15, 2016

A fire ban is in effect for the entire George Washington and Jefferson National Forests. The following are prohibited:

1. Building, maintaining or using a fire outside of developed recreation sites, such as campgrounds and day-use areas.
2. Smoking except within enclosed vehicles or buildings, in developed recreation areas or in areas cleared of all flammable material at least three-feet in diameter.
3. Open fires at any dispersed area or shelter along the Appalachian National Scenic Trail within the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests.

The use of lanterns, stoves or heating equipment that utilize gas or liquid fuel is allowed. Fires at developed recreational areas must be confined to receptacles designed for fire.

Fire ban will remain in effect from Nov. 15, 2016 until Feb. 1, 2017.

For information specific to the George Washington & Jefferson National Forests, contact that office in Roanoke at 540-265-5100

Blue Ridge Parkway Issues Burn Ban

The Blue Ridge Parkway announces fire restrictions in both the NC and VA sections due to extremely dry conditions, high fire danger and little chance of rain in the immediate forecast.

Effective Nov. 9, 2016, the following fire restrictions are in place for the Blue Ridge Parkway until further notice, and in accordance with other state and county agencies:

Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, or stove fire is not allowed.

The use of portable lanterns, stoves or heating equipment that utilize gas or pressurized liquid fuel is allowed. Charcoal fires are not allowed. This applies to all picnic areas that remain open and accessible for use.

For information specific to the **Blue Ridge Parkway**, contact its office at (828) 348-3400 or (828) 348-3420.