

## BURNING PERMIT RESTRICTIONS: WILDFIRES/COVID-19 TALKING POINTS

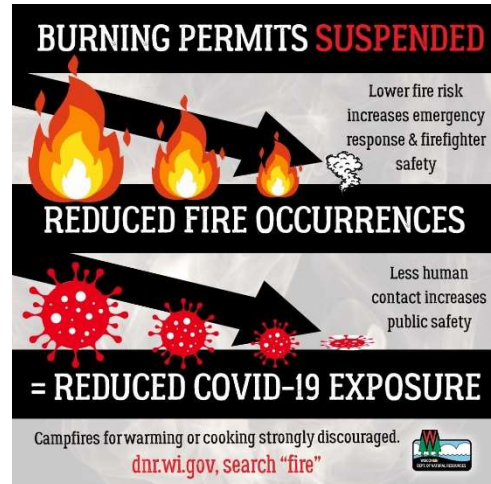
**\*\*Effective March 27, 2020 all DNR burning permits are suspended until further notice\*\***

*What does this mean?*

- All DNR burn permits suspended and will no longer be issued (written or electronically)
- NO burning debris piles in barrels, on the ground, grass or wooded areas
- Small campfires for warming or cooking are ok but, strongly discouraged; burning debris in a campfire ring is NOT considered a campfire

*How will I know when I get a burn permit and/or burn debris again?*

- Check website [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), keyword “fire” and the DNR social media for the up-to-date status
- DNR will continue to remain in compliance with department leadership mandates and recommendations and will evaluate wildfire and pandemic risks as the situation evolves



*Why is this being done?*

- Spring in Wisconsin has the highest fire risk; debris burning is the #1 cause
  - After snowmelt and before green-up when vegetation is dry (March-May)
- People are traditionally doing yard clean-up and choose to burn to dispose of yard waste, increasing fire risk
- Increase social distancing/decrease person-to-person contact and decrease geographic travel of emergency responders and firefighters
- Teleworking and reduced number of available staff may result in compromised emergency response and can result in rapid wildfire growth
- Reduce smoke impact to those with compromised respiratory functions and firefighters

*Are public services still being provided?*

- Fire and emergency response personnel are prepared to respond as usual
  - They are operating on more strict standard operating procedures (e.g., one person per vehicle, sanitizing equipment, precautions when interacting with others, etc.)
  - Response time may be slower (see above)
- Fire detection measures include citizen reporting and patrol aircraft; report fires early, dial 911

*What if I have a special situation/need?*

- Special burning permits may be allowed for time-sensitive reasons and with a site inspection (e.g., agricultural site prep or land clearing development)
  - Contact your local forester to discuss; please allow extra response time
  - You may be asked to video or photo the site and email or text images