

## RESOLUTION NO. 31 OF 2012

On motion of Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_;

### **ESTABLISHING A BAN ON OPEN BURNING IN LANCASTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

**WHEREAS**, The County Commissioners are desirous of providing for the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Lancaster County; and

**WHEREAS**, Significant brush and woods fires have occurred, and the wildfire potential is currently very high throughout Lancaster County due to the combination of strong winds, low relative humidity and warm temperatures; and

**WHEREAS**, The District Forester, on behalf of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the fire chiefs of many Lancaster County fire companies have expressed concern that the fire potential poses a serious threat to life and property in Lancaster County; and

**WHEREAS**, Emergency measures are required to reduce the severity of this danger in order to protect the health, safety, welfare and property of the citizens of Lancaster County.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA**, pursuant to the provisions of Act 1995-52 and Section 7501 of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code (35 PA C.S.), as amended, do hereby establish a temporary 30-day countywide ban on any and all open outdoor burning. The burn ban shall supersede any municipal ordinance to the contrary.

**Open burning** is hereby 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 other sort of debris) out-of-doors in either a burn barrel (screened or unscreened), fire ring, or on the ground. Exemption is given to fires for the exclusive purpose of food preparation.

**Enforcement** of this ban shall be the responsibility of any sworn police officer in accordance with the provisions of Act 1995-52.

**Penalty** – a person who violates this Resolution commits a summary offense and shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to a fine of not more than \$100.00 for the first offense, \$200.00 for the second offense and \$300.00 for the third and subsequent offenses.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Board of Commissioners direct the Lancaster County Emergency Management Coordinator to ensure the widespread publication and distribution of this burn ban to all media; to coordinate the enforcement of this ban with all law enforcement agencies in accordance with Act 1995-52; to take all appropriate action needed to coordinate response to the dangers posed by the unusually dry conditions; and to take any emergency management action deemed necessary to respond to this imminent threat to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

This declaration shall take effect Friday, April 13, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.

"continued"

ADOPTED this 11<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2012 by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Lancaster, Pennsylvania in lawful session duly assembled.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Andrea McCue, Chief Clerk  
County of Lancaster, PA  
Date: April 11, 2012

\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott F. Martin, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dennis P. Stuckey, Vice Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Craig E. Lehman

**Board of Commissioners of  
Lancaster County, Pennsylvania**

4/11/12