



January 24, 2012

Dear Forest Warden / Chief,

In accordance with State Law, the 2012 open burning season began on January 15th, and will end at 4:00 PM on May 1st. These dates are set by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) with the objective of minimizing air quality impacts, and are enforced locally by the town Forest Wardens, Fire Chiefs, and your Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) District Fire Wardens.

2011 brought us a year full of wind events with downed trees, limbs and forestry debris. Couple this with the ice storms and wind events of the recent prior years and we can all agree that the Commonwealth has a higher than average fuel load sitting in its communities at this time. We urge you to encourage land owners to complete their burning requirements early in the season and to do so responsibly by following the regulations set forth in the open burning laws. Winter season burning with snow cover offers the best conditions for burning with minimized threat of escape.

Your staunch awareness and adherence to the *10 Standard Fire Orders* and the *18 Situations That Shout Watch Out* during the upcoming 2012 wildfire season will increase fire fighter safety.

For more information about Massachusetts Regulation Defining Allowable Open Burning in the State (310 CMR 7.07) please access the Open Burning link on our website at:

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/firecont/index.htm> or refer to Section (19) OPEN BURNING in your *Massachusetts Bureau of Forest Fire Control Directory of Information* manual.

On behalf of the Bureau of Forest Fire Control personnel, and the Department of Conservation and Recreation, I thank you for your continued efforts in fire suppression and prevention, and wish you and your department a productive and safe 2012 season.

Respectfully Yours,

David V. Celino, Chief Fire Warden
Bureau of Forest Fire Control and Forestry
Department of Conservation and Recreation

DVC/RBS/rbs

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS · EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

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