

Section 135-10 Temporary Burn Ban During High Fire Danger Periods

Council Co-Sponsors: Marissa Marvelli, Ward 3, and Andrea Shaut, Council President

Whereas the Kingston Common Council recognizes that climate change is accelerating and significantly impacting local conditions, including dryness, high winds, low humidity, and dry fuels, all of which increase the risk of severe wildfires; and

Whereas Kingston's dense population and prevalence of wood-frame structures necessitate proactive measures to minimize wildfire risks and safeguard residents and property; and

Whereas the Kingston Fire Department has demonstrated commendable response efforts, including rapid emergency response; and

Whereas the worsening climate crisis demands proactive prevention strategies, particularly when conditions pose a risk of high fire danger, where a quick response may be too late; and

Whereas the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (hereinafter NYSDEC) issues a daily, statewide wildfire risk assessment using color-coded ratings—Low, Moderate, High, Very High, and Extreme—that are accessible [here](#); and

Whereas the NYSDEC defines “high fire danger” as conditions where fine fuels ignite easily, and fires spread rapidly, often becoming difficult to control; and

Whereas the Common Council seeks to implement temporary restrictions to enhance public safety while minimizing disruptions to residents;

Now, therefore, be it enacted by the Kingston Common Council that Chapter 135 of the City Code is amended to include the following:

During periods of high fire danger, as identified by the NYSDEC Fire Danger Map, a temporary burn ban shall be in effect throughout all city limits. This ban shall prohibit all outdoor fires, including bonfires, campfires, warming fires, outdoor fireplaces, chimneys, and open cooking fires. The prohibition does not include propane gas or charcoal grills.

The temporary burn ban shall expire when the NYSDEC Fire Danger Map no longer indicates a high fire danger.

Residents who fail to comply with the prohibition shall be lawfully ordered by the Kingston Fire Department to extinguish any fire.

Persistent violations by the same individual or property shall be subject to fines imposed in accordance with the regulations of the Kingston Fire Department.