

# Debris Burning Education

## ● Check with your Township for burn bans and local ordinances

*Open burning is not regulated by DEP air quality regulations, if the waste is "domestic refuse" and the burning occurs on the property of private residences where not more than two families are living and the refuse is the result of normal occupancy. This does not include items such as demolition waste, insulation, shingles, treated wood, paint, painted or stained objects or furniture tires, mattresses, box springs, metal, insulating coating on wire, television sets, and appliances, automobiles, automotive parts, batteries, PVC products, waste oil, and other petroleum products.*

## ● Recycling Act 1988 (Act 101)

*It is illegal to burn waste and materials that your municipality requires residents to recycle.*

## ● Emissions from 2 - 40 households, burning their trash daily in barrels, can produce levels of toxic emissions comparable to a well-controlled 200 ton/day municipal incinerator.

## ● Health Risks

- ◆ *Burn barrels can emit lead, cadmium, and chromium as well as unhealthy levels of carbon monoxide.*
- ◆ *Contaminants can damage lungs, kidneys, nervous systems, and the liver.*
- ◆ *Dioxins produced by burning are linked to cancer, delays in childhood development and damage to the immune system.*
- ◆ *Long term exposure to pollutants caused by debris burning can lead to cancer and emphysema.*

## ● The number one cause of wildfires in Pennsylvania is debris burning.

## ● 83% of all wildfires in Pennsylvania occur from March to May.

## ● The penalties for causing a wildfire:

*The cost of extinction*

*Civil/criminal charges and lawsuits*

*Endangering volunteer fire departments and the public.*

