

# The Virgin Islands Consortium

## Territory-Wide Burn Ban Issued Across U.S. Virgin Islands Due to Elevated Fire Risk

VIFEMS has issued a territory-wide burn ban across the USVI due to high winds and increased fire risk. The ban includes all open burning and comes during St. Croix's peak camping season. Residents are urged to use safe alternatives and remain vigilant.

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The V.I. Fire and Emergency Medical Services (VIFEMS) has announced the implementation of a territory-wide burn ban, effective immediately, in response to heightened fire danger and persistent high winds across the islands?.

The announcement, issued Wednesday, prohibits all forms of open burning until further notice. The ban covers campfires, bonfires, trash burning, yard debris, and brush fires, according to VIFEMS officials. The agency is urging residents and visitors alike to pursue alternative debris disposal methods such as chipping or composting during the ban period?.

While the burn ban is in place, the use of outdoor grills and cooking equipment with open flames is not restricted. However, VIFEMS advises residents to exercise extreme caution, emphasizing the importance of proper maintenance, constant supervision, and having a fire extinguisher on hand to mitigate the risk of unintended ignition?.

The timing of the burn ban coincides with peak camping season on St. Croix, a fact not lost on officials. VIFEMS acknowledged the impact the restriction may have on campers and urged all participants to observe fire safety protocols to ensure a safe outdoor experience during this high-risk period?.

“VIFEMS is fully aware this ban comes into effect during the height of the camping season on St. Croix,” the agency stated. “We ask that campers take all the necessary precautions for a safe camping experience”?.

The agency confirmed it will continue to monitor weather conditions and assess fire risks across the territory. Any changes or updates to the burn ban status will be communicated to the public as conditions evolve.

VIFEMS expressed gratitude to residents and visitors for their cooperation and understanding, stating that these precautionary measures are essential for protecting local communities and natural resources during this vulnerable period?.