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# Fire Service Announces Territory-Wide Burn Ban Due to Arid Conditions

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The Virgin Islands Fire and Emergency Medical Services (VIFEMS) has announced a ban on “all open fires, including capfires, bonfires, and trash yard debris or brush burning,” effective immediately across the territory.

In a statement issued to media outlets on Tuesday, VIFEMS says this is due to the increased risk of fire caused by current dry weather conditions. Instead of burning, residents are asked to find alternative ways of debris disposal, including composting and chipping.

In addition to the ban on fires, Virgin Islanders are urged to be careful when cooking on outdoor grills or cooking equipment with open flame.

Another public notice will be issued when the burn ban is lifted, says VIFEMS, as it continues to monitor weather conditions and assess fire risks throughout the territory. The agency said it appreciates the cooperation of all residents and visitors in the territory.

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