**PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release - April 3, 2024

**Media Contact:**

John Wakefield, Air Quality and Climate Compliance Section Chief

Department of Environmental Conservation

802-279-5674, John.Wakefield@Vermont.gov

Backyard Burning Reminders Released

*Montpelier, Vt.* – With spring cleaning underway in some parts of the state, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) wants to remind Vermonters to follow a few guidelines for on-premise or backyard open burning.

“Burning materials from spring cleanup can release harmful pollution that can impact neighboring properties,” said DEC Commissioner Jason Batchelder. “By following these guidelines, Vermonters can help reduce air pollution, avoid nuisance impacts, and protect human and environmental health.”

On-premise or backyard burning of brush, deadwood, or tree cuttings collected from normal property maintenance is allowed under the Vermont Air Pollution Control Regulations, as long as no public or private nuisance, such as excessive smoke, is created.

Use these guidelines during backyard burning:

* Allow green materials to dry before burning.
* Consider the wind speed and direction before burning.
* Check the [Fire Danger Forecast](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffpr.vermont.gov%2Fforest%2Fwildland-fire%2Fmonitoring-fire-danger&data=05%7C02%7Ctownclerk%40pittsfieldvt.com%7C80289145823f4bcbb44408dc53e64241%7C1aae3b64a8f240e68b4dd5b668d5df87%7C0%7C0%7C638477495646642618%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=5UxahaqleExCf8LSBBQgficlNTYSkMhki7DlZo03crA%3D&reserved=0) from Forests, Parks and Recreation and postpone burning during periods of elevated fire danger.
* Check the [Air Quality Forecast](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdec.vermont.gov%2Fair-quality%2Fcompliance%2Fopen-burning%2Fusing-forecasts&data=05%7C02%7Ctownclerk%40pittsfieldvt.com%7C80289145823f4bcbb44408dc53e64241%7C1aae3b64a8f240e68b4dd5b668d5df87%7C0%7C0%7C638477495646656406%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=OmugIUEbxKiGWUbZFayK91kON0vROFin%2Fo97vJUk76g%3D&reserved=0) and postpone burning if atmospheric conditions are not favorable to disperse the smoke.
* Obtain a local burn permit from your [Town Fire Warden](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fanrweb.vt.gov%2FFPR%2FvtFPR%2FFireWardenDirectory.aspx&data=05%7C02%7Ctownclerk%40pittsfieldvt.com%7C80289145823f4bcbb44408dc53e64241%7C1aae3b64a8f240e68b4dd5b668d5df87%7C0%7C0%7C638477495646665586%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=KtSvSKjX0SfRd5TVIgd6%2BwTcs1GXq64xqorLGdf9aTY%3D&reserved=0).
* Ensure that the fire burns hot.

“Our best suggestion is to avoid burning altogether and let the materials decompose naturally,” said John Wakefield, Compliance Section Chief for the DEC Air Quality and Climate Division.

Find tips on what to do with excess leaves, grass, and wood – such as composting and brush piles – from the [DEC Waste Management and Prevention Division](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdec.vermont.gov%2Fwaste-management%2Fsolid%2Fmaterials-mgmt%2Fgrass-leaves-and-wood&data=05%7C02%7Ctownclerk%40pittsfieldvt.com%7C80289145823f4bcbb44408dc53e64241%7C1aae3b64a8f240e68b4dd5b668d5df87%7C0%7C0%7C638477495646673866%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=HlcusB2df5E%2BTWkPAnUvGfDXB%2FLHyE2JqXlDvlb5zrQ%3D&reserved=0).

Learn more about open burning from the [DEC Air Quality and Climate Division](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdec.vermont.gov%2Fair-quality%2Fcompliance%2Fopen-burning%2Fbackyard-burning&data=05%7C02%7Ctownclerk%40pittsfieldvt.com%7C80289145823f4bcbb44408dc53e64241%7C1aae3b64a8f240e68b4dd5b668d5df87%7C0%7C0%7C638477495646686074%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=T%2FtuHRPvOt2OMtqd4yOH%2FTGyxHNkTY7CxxxMt%2BRpx%2B8%3D&reserved=0).

###

*The Department of Environmental Conservation is responsible for protecting Vermont's natural resources and safeguarding human health for the benefit of this and future generations. Visit* [*dec.vermont.gov*](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdec.vermont.gov%2F&data=05%7C02%7Ctownclerk%40pittsfieldvt.com%7C80289145823f4bcbb44408dc53e64241%7C1aae3b64a8f240e68b4dd5b668d5df87%7C0%7C0%7C638477495646697526%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=x%2BIR5yC1fQNHp838AZ%2BoqNhlqzmN2y0z7Smdss0oaCs%3D&reserved=0) *and follow the Department of Environmental Conservation on* [*Facebook*](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FTheVermontDEC%2F&data=05%7C02%7Ctownclerk%40pittsfieldvt.com%7C80289145823f4bcbb44408dc53e64241%7C1aae3b64a8f240e68b4dd5b668d5df87%7C0%7C0%7C638477495646707713%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=TPOnmrQvS7wPsfAEwoBYswxvXRwZGplN1O0WuITOI%2F8%3D&reserved=0) *and* [*Instagram*](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.instagram.com%2Fthevermontdec%2F&data=05%7C02%7Ctownclerk%40pittsfieldvt.com%7C80289145823f4bcbb44408dc53e64241%7C1aae3b64a8f240e68b4dd5b668d5df87%7C0%7C0%7C638477495646717791%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=BWZauLLGmUXLAHG5NZnARf6OeZbQnsiJOyQjZO%2FCCnM%3D&reserved=0)*.*

*Read DEC press releases online:* [*https://dec.vermont.gov/press\_releases*](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdec.vermont.gov%2Fpress_releases&data=05%7C02%7Ctownclerk%40pittsfieldvt.com%7C80289145823f4bcbb44408dc53e64241%7C1aae3b64a8f240e68b4dd5b668d5df87%7C0%7C0%7C638477495646727359%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=CkOk2nl%2Fx2MKlX9ozi5vtiMal9xomqgDffDgUThbjhw%3D&reserved=0)*.*

**Non-Discrimination Notice:**

The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) operates its programs, services, and activities without discriminating on the basis of race, religion, creed, color, national origin (including limited English proficiency), ancestry, place of birth, disability, age, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or breastfeeding (mother and child).

**Language Access Notice:**

Questions or Complaints/Free Language Services ǀ SERVICES LINGUISTIQUES GRATUITS | भाषासम्बन्धी नि:शुल्क सेवाहरू ǀ SERVICIOS GRATUITOS DE IDIOMAS ǀ 免費語言服務 | BESPLATNE JEZIČKE USLUGE ǀ БЕСПЛАТНЫЕ УСЛУГИ ПЕРЕВОДА | DỊCH VỤ NGÔN NGỮ MIỄN PHÍ ǀ 無料通訳サービス ǀ ነጻ የቋንቋ አገልግሎቶች | HUDUMA ZA MSAADA WA LUGHA BILA MALIPO | BESPLATNE JEZIČKE USLUGE | အခမဲ့ ဘာသာစကား ဝန်ဆောင်မှုများ | ADEEGYO LUUQADA AH OO BILAASH AH ǀ خدمات لغة مجانية: anr.civilrights@vermont.gov or 802-636-7827.

Stephanie Brackin (she/her) | Communications Coordinator

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

1 National Life Drive, Davis 2, Montpelier, VT 05620-3901

(802) 261-0606 | stephanie.brackin@vermont.gov

Connect with us on [Facebook](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FVTANR%2F&data=05%7C02%7Ctownclerk%40pittsfieldvt.com%7C80289145823f4bcbb44408dc53e64241%7C1aae3b64a8f240e68b4dd5b668d5df87%7C0%7C0%7C638477495646736779%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=AmZQOLEoEJss0cj637jbTlDBbgs2sikTpfXZouJdZyk%3D&reserved=0), [Twitter](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ftwitter.com%2FVermontANR&data=05%7C02%7Ctownclerk%40pittsfieldvt.com%7C80289145823f4bcbb44408dc53e64241%7C1aae3b64a8f240e68b4dd5b668d5df87%7C0%7C0%7C638477495646746174%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=IIcs1KMYPcnUPN5G%2Bty5%2FZG73y0mCsKD633D8nn5n7U%3D&reserved=0), or our [Website](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fanr.vermont.gov%2F&data=05%7C02%7Ctownclerk%40pittsfieldvt.com%7C80289145823f4bcbb44408dc53e64241%7C1aae3b64a8f240e68b4dd5b668d5df87%7C0%7C0%7C638477495646755605%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=cagoGF7EsKuScU4C0%2BImPruK9irEF1C0tZtNGieklgQ%3D&reserved=0)

Disasters can hit, and recovery can feel impossible. But there is nothing stronger than the support Vermonters provide each other. The Agency of Natural Resources stands with the community during challenging times.

* Call 211 for free local support, including mental health services.
* Find resources and referrals at [Vermont.Gov/Flood](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.vermont.gov%2Fflood%23gsc.tab%3D0&data=05%7C02%7Ctownclerk%40pittsfieldvt.com%7C80289145823f4bcbb44408dc53e64241%7C1aae3b64a8f240e68b4dd5b668d5df87%7C0%7C0%7C638477495646764460%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=4KPiEr4cGWiM3C6JHQCEKGilyOKfk0LoPX0oamAjeSo%3D&reserved=0).
* Raise money for Vermonters impacted by flood damage with [*Vermont Strong* and *Tough Too* license plates and socks](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fvt.accessgov.com%2Fdmv%2FForms%2FPage%2Fdmv%2Fvtstrong%2F1&data=05%7C02%7Ctownclerk%40pittsfieldvt.com%7C80289145823f4bcbb44408dc53e64241%7C1aae3b64a8f240e68b4dd5b668d5df87%7C0%7C0%7C638477495646773585%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=YnEZEgDye%2BLbsmUxacbgNzOxkY6Aj7rEHTKoGoaOX28%3D&reserved=0).