



State of New York

Executive Chamber

P R O C L A M A T I O N

WHEREAS, New York State has experienced a significant increase in dangerous forest fire activity in New York State; and

WHEREAS, to date, there have been 110 wildfires in the state, burning 3,589.4 acres of land, threatening 91 homes and destroying one structure; and

WHEREAS, as of May 11, 2015, data indicates that New York State is currently experiencing a high fire danger risk due to drier than normal conditions; and

WHEREAS, the open burning of debris, or brush burning, is the largest single cause of spring wildfires in the state; and

WHEREAS, several factors enable wildfires to start easily and spread quickly at this time, including the lack of green vegetation, abundance of available fuels such as dry grass and leaves, warm temperatures and wind; and

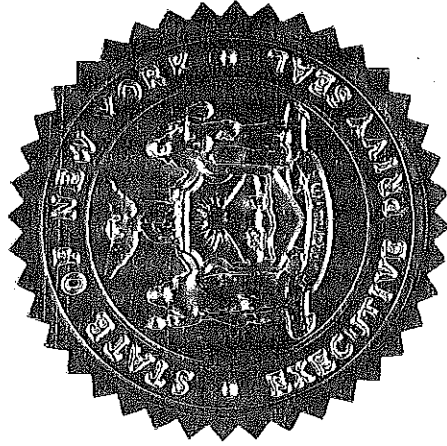
WHEREAS, since 2009, New York State has banned the open burning of debris and brush burning statewide from March 16th through May 14th, a period that has historically been the state's high fire danger risk period; and

WHEREAS, the state's burn ban resulted in seventy-four percent fewer wildfires caused by debris burning in upstate New York from 2010-2012 when compared to the previous 10-year average; and

WHEREAS, all indications are that the hot, dry weather will continue through May 21, 2015; and

WHEREAS, to ensure public safety and protect the forests of the state from the danger of fire, the Governor is authorized under section 9-1101 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law to implement measures such as a high fire danger risk outdoor burn ban;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ANDREW M. CUOMO, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby declare a high fire danger risk outdoor burn ban throughout New York State until midnight on May 21, 2015. This burn ban prohibits the starting of outdoor fires for purposes of brush and debris burning, as well as outdoor fires, such as campfires and recreational fires, and open fires used for cooking in the State of New York.



BY THE GOVERNOR

William J. Mahoney

Secretary to the Governor

GIVEN under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State in the City of Albany this thirteenth day of May in the year two thousand fifteen.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew M. Cuomo".