



Inclusion Through Diversity

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Tompkins County Under a “Red Flag” Warning. Dry, Windy Conditions Pose Fire Threat**

Tompkins County is included in a “red flag area,” reported by the National Weather Service in Binghamton. Weather conditions, with low humidity and gusty winds, are ripe for rapid fire spread.

The Tompkins County Department of Emergency Response reminds residents that an outside burn ban is in effect through May 15<sup>th</sup>.

“A response to an outdoor fire during the burn ban period will likely include the local fire department and law enforcement,” says Director of Emergency Response Lee Shurtleff. “A New York State Department of Environmental Conservation officer or forest ranger may be dispatched to assist the firefighting efforts and determine the origin and cause of the fire. If appropriate, summonses may be issued to violators of the burn ban.

“Grass and brush fires can occur and spread rapidly, creating threats to people, wildlife, buildings, vehicles, or other property, Director Shurtleff states. “Preventing such fires is critical, especially during posted red flag warnings.”

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