



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

RELEASE 12-03

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**NEW YORK CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT AND OFFICE OF
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISE NEW YORKERS ABOUT
INCREASED RISK OF BRUSH FIRES**

*The National Weather Service has issued a Special Brush Fire Weather Statement for
New York City*

The New York City Fire Department (FDNY) and Office of Emergency Management (OEM) today advised New Yorkers that unusually dry conditions and gusty winds will increase the risk of dangerous brush fires this week.

The National Weather Service has already issued a Red Flag Warning for areas north and west of New York City. A Red Flag Warning means that a combination of dry fuels and weather conditions support extreme fire danger. Red Flag Warning conditions can also make firefighting difficult and increase the threat fires pose to life and property.

In New York City the National Weather Service has *not* issued a Red Flag Warning. However, a Special Weather Statement advising the city about the increased risk of brush fires was issued earlier today. And, with no precipitation forecast until this weekend, the National Weather Service statement could be upgraded at any time.

The FDNY and OEM encourage New Yorkers to exercise extra caution when using any ignition source outdoors, including gas and charcoal grills. In addition, smokers should never carelessly discard cigarettes.

New Yorkers are encouraged to take the following precautions:

LANDSCAPING

- Keep your lawn, trees, and plants well watered.
- Mow regularly. Clear weeds, cut grass, and dry vegetation from around your home.
- Trim dead wood from trees. Remove branches less than 10' from the ground.

- Use non-flammable plants for landscaping.
- Do not plant trees and plants too close to structures and under overhangs or eaves.

PROPERTY OWNERS

- Properly dispose of trash and debris, removing furniture, boxes and other material from your property.
- Store flammable liquids properly. Refuel garden equipment carefully.
- Keep the roof clean and clear. Remove leaf clutter from roof and gutters.

To report a fire, dial 911 immediately. Do not put yourself in harm's way trying to extinguish a fire.

For more information on fire safety, dial 311 or visit nyc.gov. To receive real-time text and voice alerts about emergencies and special events sign up for Notify NYC – the City's free emergency notification system - at www.nyc.gov. Or, follow @NotifyNYC on Twitter at www.twitter.com/notifynyc.

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