



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#14-14

**NYC FIRE DEPARTMENT & OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
ADVISE NEW YORKERS ABOUT INCREASED RISK OF BRUSH FIRES**

The National Weather Service has issued a Red Flag Warning for New York City for Thursday, April 24

April 23, 2014 – The New York City Fire Department (FDNY) and Office of Emergency Management (OEM) today advised New Yorkers that dry conditions and gusty winds will increase the risk of dangerous brush fires on Thursday, April 24.

The National Weather Service has issued a Red Flag Warning for New York City and surrounding areas that remains in effect from 9:00AM to 8:00PM Thursday. 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.

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 York City's grasslands are particularly vulnerable to brush fires. Residents of these communities should take steps to make their homes less vulnerable to wildfires. 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/notifynyc. Or, follow @NotifyNYC on Twitter at www.twitter.com/notifynyc.

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