



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY & CORRECTIONS  
PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES



H. "BUTCH" BROWNING, JR.  
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

**OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL**

**CEASE AND DESIST ORDER**

**WHEREAS,** Governor John Bel Edwards has declared a state of emergency in response to the outbreak of the respiratory disease, coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

**WHEREAS,** effective March 25, 2020 at 8:00 a.m., to assist in preventing potential fire-related dangers during this state of emergency and to diminish any airborne irritants caused by burning, the State Fire Marshal ordered a statewide cease and desist order for all private burning, pursuant to his authority under R.S. 40:1602 with private burning only be allowed by permission of the local fire department or local government;

**WHEREAS,** the cease and desist order does not apply to prescribed burns by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, by those trained and certified by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, or by those who conduct prescribed burning as a "generally accepted agriculture practice" as defined by the Louisiana Right to Farm Law;

**WHEREAS,** a severe thunderstorm moved through Vernon Parish on April 19, 2020, bringing with it heavy rainfall and high wind gusts resulting in downed trees, debris (which includes, vegetation, limbs, and fallen trees), and other damage;

**NOW THEREFORE, I, H. "BUTCH" BROWNING,** Fire Marshal of the State of Louisiana, by the authority of Louisiana R.S. 40:1602, do hereby order and direct as follows:

**SECTION 1:** The March 25, 2020 statewide cease and desist order for all private burning, pursuant to his authority under R.S. 40:1602, with private burning only be allowed by permission of the local fire department or local government, is modified to allow for the burning of debris resulting from the April 19, 2020 thunderstorms and wind gusts unless prohibited by the local governing authority. This modification is limited to Vernon Parish.

This order is effective April 20, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. and shall remain in effect until April 30, 2020 at 11:59 p.m.

**BY ORDER OF:**

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**H. "Butch" Browning  
State Fire Marshal**