Hamburg Township
Public Safety Department

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RICHARD DUFFANY, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY

TO: Hamburg Township Board

FROM: Chief Richard Duffany

DATE: September 30, 2026

RE: Open Burn Ordinance

The Township's current ordinance governing open burns states that *"The Township Board, after consultation with the fire chief or the fire marshal, may allow additional open burning times if a storm results in large amounts of downed trees, branches and/or leaves. Such additional open burns shall otherwise comply with the applicable requirements of this article."* Sec. 16-59(10). This means if a storm occurs during the proscribed period for open burning, such as the most recent storm that occurred in the Township, residents must wait until the Board takes action at their next regularly scheduled Board meeting before they may lawfully burn downed trees/branches. In this recent case, the aforementioned storm occurred on September 2nd meaning that residents had to wait almost 2 full weeks before they could lawfully burn the storm debris in an effort to clean up their property.

I am respectfully requesting that the Board review the current language in the ordinance to determine if the ordinance should be amended to provide for a more efficient means by which to allow for open burning during times of heavy storm damage.

Respectfully,

Chief Richard Duffany
Director of Public Safety