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A firefighter extinguishes an area around where a fire spread from a burn barrel to the grass and bushes along Little Lake Road shortly before 4 p.m. Saturday.

Fines coming after three grass fires Saturday in Cramahe Township despite burn ban in effect

PETE FISHER
NORTHUMBERLAND TODAY

Three Cramahe Township residents learned a costly lesson Saturday for not complying with a burn ban.

With burn bans in effect across Northumberland County, not everyone is heeding the warning put out by municipalities.

On Saturday, starting at 12:30 p.m., Cramahe Township firefighters responded to three different grass fires. Each one had exposures nearby, including a shed and barns.

Cramahe Fire Chief Brandon Northrup said there is a zero tolerance the municipality is taking, with heavy fines for those who chose to ignore the burn ban which has been in place for at least three weeks.

At least two of the fires were left unattended, allowing the fires to spread quickly.

"It's frustrating because heat exhaustion for the firefighters is a major issue," Northrup said. "Obviously with these very dry conditions fires spread very fast and once they get into the woods and heavier brush it takes a toll on the firefighters."

Anyone choosing to ignore the burn bylaw faces a charge of \$410 along with an additional \$410 per truck per hour plus the firefighters wages.

"Any call they can expect just under \$1,000," Northrup said.

Fire departments in the area have well advertised the burn ban through news media as well as social media.

"With the burn ban on, I can guarantee they are going to get a



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Scorched area along Haynes Road near Castleton on Saturday.

bill," Northrup said of those not abiding by the burn bans.

Northrup noted that fines will be handed out if the department

is informed of a burning complaint or someone having a controlled burn. Any type of burning during the ban will see a mini-

mum charge of \$410, even if the fire department isn't called out.
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Zero tolerance during burn ban