OFFICE OF
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 32 FY 19/20
DATE April 1, 2020

AN ORDER REGARDING FIRE BURN PERMITS

WHEREAS, I proclaimed a state of emergency on March 15, 2020 to authorize the use of emergency powers in order to expand and expedite the State's response to the many different effects of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the governor's emergency powers expressly include the authorities to adjust time frames and deadlines imposed by law and to suspend the enforcement of a statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business; and

WHEREAS, this Order is necessary to safeguard the health of local fire chiefs and town wardens concerned about the public entering fire stations or private homes to obtain a fire permit and enable permits to be issued by telephone to help prevent transmission of the virus;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janet T. Mills, Governor of the State of Maine, pursuant to 37-B M.R.S. Ch. 13, including but not limited to 37-B M.R.S. §742(1)(C)(1), (12), (13)(a) and §834, do hereby Order as follows:

I. ORDER

Pursuant to 12 M.R.S. Chapter 807, persons shall continue to have a valid fire burn permit. In order to reduce in-person contact, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry may suspend enforcing the requirement set forth in 12 M.R.S. §9321-A that an authorized person shall demand that a person produce such permit at the scene of the burn.

II. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Order shall take effect on April 1, 2020 and unless sooner amended or rescinded terminates 15 days after the termination of the COVID-19 state of emergency.

Janet T. Mills
Governor