

**Mayor and Town Commissioners,  
Town of Oriental**

**Dear Mayor and Commissioners:**

**I believe that it is time to change our fire ordinance to a "no open fire" policy. On Saturday, February 20th, a homeowner on Dolphin Road started a fire which saw the fire department respond and put it out. This was caused by the owner temporarily not being on the scene while the debris pile was burning. In literally minutes, it spread from a small pile to an area hundreds of feet in diameter. If not for an alert neighbor, it may have consumed the house. I'm positive this is not an isolated incident within the Oriental community.**

**The burning of yard debris within the town limits should not be permitted anymore. As the town grows and becomes more developed, we have to become aware of the dangers of having fires when our side yard setbacks can be as small as 7 feet. This has become way too dangerous and unhealthy for our residents. It is not fair that one person can disrupt the life of others by having smoke blow through their neighbor's properties and homes.**

**How long will we continue to allow this threat to continue when there are alternatives to burning, such as composting, mulching and disposal at the Grantsboro transfer station.**

**Thank you for your consideration of this problem,  
Joe Valinoti**