



OFFICE OF THE BOROUGH PRESIDENT
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VITO J. FOSSELLA
BOROUGH PRESIDENT
718.816.2200
WWW.STATENISLANDUSA.COM

April 15, 2022

<< Salutation >> << First Name >> << Last Name >>
<< Address >>
Staten Island, NY << Zip >>

Re: **Wetlands Firebreak Permit**
Staten Island, NY

Dear << Salutation >> << Last Name >>:

As you are no doubt aware, wildfire season is almost here. This annual occurrence threatens both lives and property, and we at Borough Hall want to work with you and the community to minimize the potential dangers of a phragmites-fueled brushfire.

There are proactive steps you can take to protect your home and property from a brushfire, the most important of which is to keep your back and side yards clean and cleared of any flammable phragmites (an invasive reed grass) or materials. It is also important to make sure roof gutters are cleared and free of dried debris and leaves, which could help prevent the spread of fire to your home via airborne sparks or hot ash.

You can obtain permission to cut and/or mow phragmites adjacent to your house on adjoining properties owned by the city, state or federal government. **However, a permit is required.** This permit is free and can be obtained by contacting my office at Borough Hall by fax at **718-816-2060**, or by emailing firebreaks@statenisdusa.com. We will require that you sign a permission form verifying that you are the owner. We will then issue the permit allowing you to mow a distance of 50' from your property line (or 50' beyond the paved street edge, and no more than 100' from your home) to create a firebreak to protect your property.

It is my hope that your efforts, and those of the community working alongside city, state and federal agencies will make this the least destructive summer in recent years.

Sincerely,

Vito J. Fossella
President, Borough of Staten Island