

DNREC Environmental Crimes Unit arrests two men for illegal burning in Felton area

DNREC's Environmental Crimes Unit Natural Resources Police officers investigated this fire on Sandtown Road on April 4. DNREC ECU photo.

FELTON – Natural Resources Police Officers with DNREC's Environmental Crimes Unit arrested two Kent County men April 4 on multiple illegal burning charges related to a fire in the Felton area. DNREC ECU officers responded at the request of the Felton Fire Company to investigate a large fire at a property on Sandtown Road, with fire companies from Harrington, Greensboro, Md., and Goldsboro, Md., also responding to assist.

Muhammad Iran, 29, and Muhammad Asim, 33, both of Felton, were each cited at the scene for one count of each of causing or allowing the illegal open burning of refuse; illegal open burning in the conduct of a salvage operation; failure to give prior notice to the local fire call board for open burning; and unauthorized burning. Each charge carries a minimum fine of \$100 each.

DNREC's Environmental Crimes Unit also reminds residents that the state's open burning ban is in effect May 1-Sept. 30. Residents can find more information on open burning on the DNREC Air Resources Web Page at <https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/air/open-burning/>.

Delawareans are encouraged to report open burning violations to DNREC's Natural Resources Police Environmental Crimes Unit by calling the 24-hour environmental complaints line at

800-662-8802.

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