



North Carolina
Department of Environment and
Natural Resources

Michael F. Easley, Governor
William G. Ross Jr., Secretary



North Carolina
Division of Forest Resources

Wib L. Owen, Director

Debris Burning is Banned Across North Carolina

The N.C. Division of Forest Resources has imposed a statewide ban on all open burning and canceled all burning permits. The reason for the ban is the persistent dry and windy conditions blanketing North Carolina has made forest fuels such as leaves and branches extremely dry and increased the amount of wildfire activity statewide. The ban on open burning will be in effect until further notice.

- The ban does not apply to a fire within 100 feet of an occupied dwelling. A campsite (for example a tent, recreational vehicle, pop up trailer, etc.) is not considered an occupied dwelling.
- County fire marshals have jurisdiction of burning within 100 feet of an occupied dwelling. The Division of Forest Resources has advised county fire marshals across the state of the burning ban and asked for their consideration of also implementing a ban on open burning. Please check with your fire marshal before you burn within that 100-foot area.
- The burn ban does not allow for cooking fires beyond the 100-foot area of an occupied dwelling. Cooking is allowed using an enclosed grill or cooker.
- If a fire within that 100-foot area escapes containment, a North Carolina forest ranger may take reasonable steps to extinguish or control the fire. The person responsible for setting the fire may be responsible for reimbursing the N.C. Department of Natural Resources for any expenses related to extinguishing that fire.
- The burn ban does not allow for campfires or bonfires, even in a metal ring.
- Open burning includes burning leaves, branches and other plant material. In all cases, it is illegal to burn trash, lumber, tires, newspapers, plastics or other non-vegetative materials.
- Other local ordinances and air quality regulations may also impact open burning.
- Outdoor burning is also prohibited in areas covered by Code Orange or Code Red air quality forecasts.
- By North Carolina law (G.S. 113-60.25 and 113.60.27), the ban prohibits all open burning statewide, regardless of whether a permit was issued. The issuance of any new permits has been suspended until the ban is lifted. In addition to the \$100 fine, people in violation of the open burning ban may have to pay court costs.

Local fire departments and state and local law enforcement officers are assisting the NC Division of Forest Resources to enforce the burn ban.

For more information, contact Brian R. Haines at (919) 733-2162 ext. 234. Citizens can also contact a county ranger with the Division of Forest Resources or the local county fire marshal's office for more information.