



Troup County Board of Commissioners

Building, Zoning, & Planning Department

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Dear Troup County Citizens,

In Troup County, the Georgia Forestry Commission has five (5) months of summer time outdoor burning restrictions that are in place annually from May 1 to October 1, due to summer time air quality concerns and regulations of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division. However, outdoor burning is allowed during the other seven (7) months of the year, starting October 1 and running till May 1, which coincides with the cooler and wetter mid-fall to mid-spring months.

The burning of household garbage is **PROHIBITED** year round and is **NOT** permitted by the Georgia Forestry Commission. It is unlawful to burn any man-made material such as tires, shingles, plastics, metals, lumber, cardboard, wires, foam, bottles, cans, furniture, carpet, house garbage, trash, etc.

“Fall in Georgia is perfect for working in the yard, and that includes clearing leaves and vegetation with fire”, said Frank Sorrells, Georgia Forestry Commission Chief of Forest Protection. “Just remember that any time fire is used for outdoor burning, a burn permit needs to be secured from the Georgia Forestry Commission. Fortunately, that’s an easy thing to do”. Burn permits can be secured online at GaTrees.org and permits may also be obtained by calling 1-877-OK-2-BURN.

Debris burning is Georgia’s number one cause of wildfires accounting for more than half of all wildfires statewide. “Our department responded to over 100 woods and grass fires last year, many of the fires started as leaf piles and other controlled burns”, said Dennis Knight, Troup County Fire Chief (706-883-1717). “Never leave the burn area unattended and always have water and tools on hand to contain the fire”, stated Chief Knight. “If you feel your leaf burn is getting out of control, call 911. It’s easier to contain the fire if we are notified as soon as it gets out of hand, rather than later, after it has grown to a significant size.”

Smoke from outdoor burns may cause problems in the evening hours, as it tends to settle near the ground. “Try to time your outdoor burns, so that they are completely extinguished an hour before sunset”.

For more information about safe outdoor burning, burn permits, and what can be burned; contact the local Georgia Forestry Commission office at 706-845-4122 or visit GaTrees.org.