



N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Release: Immediate
Date: May 18, 2007

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Burning Ban Lifted In Southeastern North Carolina

RALEIGH – State and local fire officials will lift a ban on open burning for six counties in southeastern North Carolina at 1 p.m. today.

The ban on open burning will be lifted for Duplin, Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, New Hanover and Pender counties. The N.C. Division of Forest Resources and fire marshals in all six counties imposed the ban on April 27. State and local fire officials decided to lift the ban after the region started receiving cooler and wetter weather.

NCDFR county rangers and designated agents in these counties are again issuing burning permits.

However, most of North Carolina is still experiencing dry conditions and state forestry officials are warning people to be careful if they burn outside. Based on North Carolina's open burning laws, the Division of Forest Resources offered these tips to landowners:

- Make sure you have an approved burning permit. You can obtain a burning permit at any Division of Forest Resources' office, a county-approved burning permit agent or online at www.dfr.state.nc.us.
- Check local laws on burning debris. Some communities allow burning only during specified hours; others forbid it entirely.
- Check the weather. Don't burn if conditions are too dry or windy.
- Consider alternatives to burning. Some yard debris such as leaves and grass may be of more value if it is not burned.
- Only burn natural vegetation on the property. Burning household trash or any other man-made materials is illegal. Trash should be hauled away to a convenience center.
- Plan burning for the late afternoon when conditions are typically less windy and more humid.
- If you must burn, be prepared. Use a shovel or hoe to clear a perimeter around the area around where you plan to burn.
- Keep fire tools ready. To control the fire, you will need a hose, bucket, a steel rake and a shovel for tossing dirt on the fire. Never use flammable liquids such as kerosene, gasoline or diesel fuel to speed debris burning.
- Stay with your fire until it is completely out. In North Carolina, human carelessness leads to more wildfires than any other cause.

For more information, contact Chris Carlson, public information officer with the Division of Forest Resources, at (919) 210-5013 or Chris.Carlson@ncmail.net.

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