



N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Release: Immediate
Date: April 27, 2007

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Ban on Open Burning Issued in Six North Carolina Counties

RALEIGH – The N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Bill Ross banned open burning and canceled all burning permits in six southeastern North Carolina counties starting at 4:30 p.m. today. The ban on open burning will be in effect until further notice.

The burn ban affects state and private lands in Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, Duplin, Pender and New Hanover counties.

The ban on open burning is necessary because of high wildfire activity and extremely dry, windy weather conditions in those six counties. Fire officials in the N.C. Division of Forest Resources say that the six counties have confronted higher fire activity and drier fuels than other areas of North Carolina. Also, the six southeastern counties are not forecast to receive significant rainfall in the next week.

By North Carolina law, the ban prohibits all open burning in the affected counties, regardless of whether a permit was issued. 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.

The ban will be enforced by local law enforcement agents and the N.C. Division of Forest Resources, an agency within the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The open burning ban means that all burning is prohibited if it is 100 feet or more from an occupied dwelling. An occupied dwelling is a home or residence that someone lives in.

The burning ban does not cover people who are cooking food on a grill.

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