

FORSYTH COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

OUTDOOR BURNING REGULATIONS

- There is a county wide state-mandated **burning ban** during the months of **May, June, July, August, and September**.
- All authorized burning shall occur between the hours of **10:00 a.m. and one hour before sunset**.
- Open burning will not be authorized when conditions are such that the burn may jeopardize the safety of life and/or property, an air pollution episode or when restrictions are imposed by a state or federal agency for any reason.
- The burning of “household” garbage, trash, and construction debris is not allowed. **The burning off of lawns is not allowed.**
- The Forsyth County Fire Department shall have the authority to cause any fire to be extinguished if it is determined that there is a danger to public safety, a danger to public or private property, a nuisance or sign of environmental harm or violation of regulations..
- Person(s) in control of the property at the time of the burn are responsible for the compliance with the requirements of this Ordinance.
- All burns must be attended by a competent person 16 years or older having the ability to extinguish the fire.
- No burns will be authorized when the humidity is less than **25%** or the winds are greater than **10 mph**.

LEAF PILES AND OTHER YARD DEBRIS ON RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY (PERMIT NOT REQUIRED) Burning of leaf piles, the reduction of other “natural vegetation” such as trees and parts thereof , pine straw, and sticks on the premises on which they fall (**not cut down**) is allowed. No burn pile shall be larger than 6’ X 2’. There shall be no more than two burn piles burning at any time. There shall be 10 feet between burn piles. Burn piles shall be 50 feet from of any structure and 25 feet from a property line.

The following burns are allowed without notification:

- Recreation/cooking fires
- Campfires in approved areas
- Open flame equipment/tar kettles/etc.
- Miscellaneous warming fires at construction sites. (Warming fires shall be contained within a metal barrel of 55-gallon capacity or less. Untreated wood or lumber shall be the only material or substance permitted to be burned. The container for the warming fire shall be 25 feet from any structure. **NO** on ground warming fires are permitted. Warming fires are only permitted when the temperature is 40 degrees Fahrenheit or less.

The Forsyth County Fire Department shall be notified at (678) 455-8072 prior to conducting the following type burns:

- Agricultural burns necessary for production or harvesting of crops
- Prescribed burning as defined by Georgia DNR Rules for Air Quality Control (Does not facilitate land use changes)
- Burning to control disease
- Burning to control pests
- Emergency burning of storm damage debris

FORSYTH COUNTY BURN PERMITS, SITE INSPECTIONS, AND FEES ARE REQUIRED FOR:

The open burning of vegetative material for the purpose of land clearing and/or the construction of right of ways are required to be permitted by the Forsyth County Fire Department and require the use of an **Air Curtain Destructor (ACD)**. The following conditions are being met:

- The location of the ACD is at least **300 feet** from any dwelling or public road, street, or highway.
- No more than one ACD can be operated within a 10-acre area at one time or there must be at least 1000 feet between any two ACDs.
- Only wood waste consisting of trees, logs, large brush and stumps, which are relatively free of soil, are to be burned.
- Tires or other rubber products, plastics, heavy oils, asphalt materials, are not to be used to start or maintain the operation of an ACD.
- The ACD is to be operated in accordance with procedures set forth by the GA. DNR (**Copy available at Fire Marshal’s Office.**)
- The cleaning out of the ACD pit is being performed in a manner to prevent fugitive dust or excessive smoke.
- Permits may be issued for open burning of agricultural land where use of an ACD is not practical.
- The Chief of the Forsyth County Fire Department or his/her designee will issue all required Forsyth County permits.
- The Fire Chief or his/her designee may revoke or suspend permits at any time if conditions or permit restrictions require such.

PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING BURN PERMITS:

- Contact the Forsyth County Fire Department during normal business hours, M-F 8a.m to 4p.m (except holidays) at **(678) 455-8072**.
- The request for a permit where a site visit is required must be made at least **48 hours** prior to the burn. A site inspection will be scheduled and if site is in compliance a permit will be issued at that time.
- ACD and pit must be in place and according to DNR rules prior to inspection.
- Where a fee is required the fee shall be paid at the time the permit is issued. The payment shall be by **check or money order** and made payable to the Forsyth County Fire Department.
- Permit is only valid for 30 days and there must be a permit for every ACD used. (Permit may be renewed for additional 30 days on request)
- Permit fee is \$500.00 per permit per 30 days.