



**North Carolina Department of Agriculture  
and Consumer Services**  
*N.C. Forest Service*



**Steven W. Troxler**  
Commissioner

**Gregory M. Hicks**  
Assistant Commissioner

Nov. 8, 2023

MEMORANDUM

To: All North Carolina Forest Service Districts

From: Greg Hicks – Assistant Commissioner

RE: Cancellation of Burning Permits and Implementation of a Burning Ban for 16 counties

Confirming authorization due to hazardous forest fire conditions, I am using authority under the law (NC G.S. 106-944 & 106-946) to cancel all burning permits and prohibit all open burning for the entire counties of Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Caldwell, Catawba, Haywood, Iredell, Lincoln, Madison, Mecklenburg, Mitchell, Watauga, Wilkes and Yancey. This ban on open burning is effective at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2023, and shall remain in effect until further notice.

Distribute widely to the affected areas. The burn ban does not apply to fires started within 100 feet of an occupied dwelling. Fires within that 100 feet must be confined within an enclosure from which burning material may not escape or within a protected area upon which a watch is being maintained and which is provided with adequate fire protection equipment. The local Fire Marshal has authority to issue a burn ban within 100 feet of an occupied dwelling.

Even though not all areas of North Carolina are under the burn ban, we do encourage the public to exercise extreme caution with any burning as conditions are dry. We will assess other areas of the state in the coming days to determine if the burn ban needs to be extended to additional counties.

By Direction Of:

Steve Troxler, Commissioner

N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Cc:

NCDA&CS Public Affairs Director  
USFS Asheville Dispatch  
USFS Public Affairs  
US Fish & Wildlife Service  
National Park Service  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
SC Forestry Commission  
Georgia Forestry Commission

NC Division of Emergency Management  
NC Division of Air Quality  
NC Office of State Fire Marshal  
NC Wildlife Resources Commission  
NC State Parks  
The Nature Conservancy  
NCFS Operations Rooms  
NCFS Division Directors