



News Release

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GFC EMPHASIZES SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FOR NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

The Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) urges residents statewide to think safety and exercise caution in observance of National Fire Prevention Week October 5-11.

GFC officials urge outdoor enthusiasts from all walks of life to be aware of the dangerous wildfire potential at this time of year. Clearing wide areas around campfires, ensuring that campfires are never left unattended, and thoroughly extinguishing all campfires are primary preventive measures that are especially important during the fall season.

Statistics from GFC show debris burning continues to be the number one cause of wildfires. Burn permits are always required prior to outdoor burning. Burn permits are available by calling 1-877-OK-2-BURN, by going on-line to the GFC website at www.gatrees.org or by calling the local GFC office.

Fire prevention practices for homeowners should include raking leaves and removing flammable vegetation for at least 30 feet from any structure. Homeowners can create a safety area by selecting fire-resistant plants and by properly spacing those plants in their yards. Leaves should be removed from gutters and firewood stacked away from any structure that could catch fire.

Care should also be taken when conducting prescribed burns on forested tracts. "Prescribed burning when weather conditions are right is one of the most effective forest management tools available to landowners," said Alan Dozier, Chief of Forest Protection.

For additional information, visit the GFC website at www.gatrees.org or contact your local Georgia Forestry Commission office.

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