

GEORGIA FORESTRY
COMMISSION



News Release

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HIGH FIRE ALERT THIS HOLIDAY WEEKEND IN GEORGIA

The Georgia Forestry Commission is asking for every Georgian's help in preventing wildfire this Memorial Day weekend. With a serious drought underway and record-breaking fires in south Georgia still burning, the risk of wildfire demands strict vigilance with all ignitable materials.

"I can't ever remember a time when so much of Georgia was at class 5 fire danger," said Alan Dozier, Chief of Forest Protection with the Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC). Class 5 is the highest level of measurable fire risk on GFC fire danger scales. "Our resources are stretched to the maximum with the south Georgia fires, so outbreaks anywhere else will present a real challenge. We need Georgians to pitch in and help prevent wildfires."

As families begin spending more time outdoors this holiday weekend, fire risks can increase. Dozier advised extreme caution when enjoying campfires and cookouts. Fireworks pose a very high risk and are not advised. Lawn equipment on dry grass and the disposal of cigarettes should also be carefully monitored.

"Very simply, these drought conditions mean one stray spark can cause a ravaging wildfire," said Dozier. "We want people to have an enjoyable summer, but it can easily go up in smoke if everybody's not careful."

The Georgia Forestry Commission is the state agency charged with the protection of people and property from wildfire. For updates on local burning restrictions, the south Georgia wildfires, and fire safety in general, visit the GFC website at www.gatrees.org.

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