



News Release

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GFC DISCONTINUES MECHANICAL FUEL REDUCTION PROGRAM

The Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) is discontinuing its mechanical fuel reduction and mastication program. Effective immediately, referrals for service will be made to private vendors and contractors.

“This program has successfully raised awareness and demonstrated the usefulness of mechanical fuel reduction treatments as an alternative or enhancement to other options,” said Frank Sorrells, Chief of Protection for the Georgia Forestry Commission. “It is especially useful to improve defensible spaces near structures and smoke sensitive areas where prescribed burning or herbicide applications aren’t prudent.” In conjunction with prescribed burning, Sorrells said mechanical fuel treatment can reduce dense vegetation growth prior to fire applications, lower fire intensity, and minimize the risk of escaped fire and standing timber mortality.

The Georgia Forestry Commission provides information, advice and services to landowners for the protection of forest resources throughout the state. Numerous private contractors and vendors now offer this type of service statewide, and are readily available to assist landowners/homeowners with fuel reduction practices. Most land clearing or landscaping vendors have access to mechanical fuel reduction equipment and offer heavy mowing or mastication using various styles of equipment.

Contact information for these vendors may be found by using internet searches or by checking with local vendors who offer landscaping and land clearing services. In addition, the GFC maintains a forestry services contractors list which provides contact information for vendors statewide. For more information, contact your local GFC office.

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