TO OBTAIN A PERMIT TO DO OUTSIDE BURNING, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL FORESTRY UNIT

Let's Work Together

If we cannot work together to prevent forest fires and to control the smoke from our planned fires, then we will eventually lose our privilege to do outdoor burning. Fire is a very important tool. It is used by foresters to help manage their forests and by farmers to help clear land for new crops. Fire is used by many Georgians for many good reasons. We must all show that we can use fire in a responsible fashion if we want the use of fire to continue.

The "Permit Law" helps us to be more responsible with our fires. When you call the Georgia Forestry Commission for a permit, you will be asked for information pertaining to the location and type of burning you plan to conduct. Our special forestry weather forecast will tell us if your particular fire is likely to be difficult to control or likely to cause a smoke-related problem. If the weather forecast is favorable, as it is on most days, then you will be given a permit number and you may proceed with your burning.

The permit law also informs the forest ranger to expect smoke in the area. Your telephone call will prevent the dispatching of the fire suppression equipment unnecessarily.

By working together, we can save taxpayers money and preserve our privilege to burn.

In 1988, the Georgia Forest Fire Protection Act was amended to require a permit for the burning of woods, lands, marshes, or other flammable vegetation.

This means that you must call your local Georgia Forestry Commission office and obtain a permit before you proceed with any outdoor burning.

GEORGIA FORESTRY COMMISSION

It's a Statewide Georgia Law

Get a Burn Permit

WHY A PERMIT LAW?

Georgia's population has increased to the point that wildfire occurrence, air pollution and local smoke related nuisances caused from debris burning are of statewide concern. Georgia experiences more forest fires than any other Southern state. Smoke related auto accidents resulting in death to Georgia's motorists, as well as other smoke related problems involving smoke sensitive areas such as airports, hospitals, etc., have prompted the General Assembly to pass the permit law.

Most fire and smoke problems are weather related. With the permit law, the Georgia Forestry Commission can better manage fire activity on those days when your fire is likely to become a problem.

We understand what a handy tool fire can be. Permits will be easy to obtain on days when the weather is good for burning.

By working together, we can continue to use fire as a tool and keep related problems such as forest fires and smoke nuisances to a minimum.

THE GEORGIA FOREST FIRE PROTECTION ACT
Burning of Woods, Marshes, etc.

The "Georgia Forest Fire Protection Act" requires a permit for the burning of any woods, lands, marshes or other flammable vegetation to be obtained from the Georgia Forestry Commission.

MISDEMEANOR PROVISIONS

SECTION 1.

(a) Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this Code section, any person, firm, corporation or association lawfully entitled to burn any woods, lands, marshes, or any other flammable vegetation, whether in cultivated or uncultivated areas, shall prior to such burning obtain a permit thereof from the forest ranger of the county wherein such burning is to be made or from another employee of the forestry unit serving such county who is authorized by the chief forester of such unit to grant such permits. An application for a permit shall provide the county forest ranger or other authorized employee of the forestry unit serving the county with the location and the recommended time of the proposed burn. Such information may be provided and the permit may be obtained by a telephone call to the county forest ranger or to another authorized employee of the forestry unit serving the county. The permit shall be given by providing the applicant therefor with a permit number which will grant permission for a controlled burn to take place at the location specified by the applicant at a time approved by the county forest ranger or by the other authorized employee of the forestry unit serving the county.

(b) It shall not be necessary to obtain a permit otherwise required by subsection (a) of this code section if a sudden emergency requires a firing in order to render one's premises safe. In any prosecution under this Code section, a necessary firing in a sudden emergency shall constitute an affirmative defense, but the burden of proving such necessity shall rest upon the person asserting it as a defense.

(c) It shall not be necessary to obtain a permit otherwise required by subsection (a) of this code section to burn improved pastures or residue on cultivated crop land if the person, firm, corporation, or association intending to burn such residue shall, prior to such burning, give notice of the approximate time and location thereof to the forest ranger of the county wherein such burning is to be made or to an employee of the forestry unit serving such county who is authorized to grant permits under subsection (a) of this Code section.

(d) The notice or permit required by this Code section shall be in addition to any other notice or permit or other requirement for burning provided for by the law or by ordinance, resolution or regulation of any county or municipality of this state.

ANY PERSON WHO VIOLATES EITHER OF THE ABOVE LAWS IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR.