

Cobb County Fire and Emergency Services

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OUTDOOR BURNING INFORMATION



Fire Marshal's Office
770-528- 8310

Revised May 2015

Burning Banned May 1 – September 30

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources has issued a ban on open burning May 1 – September 30 of each year. Fifty-four counties in Georgia (including Cobb County) are affected. Cobb County Fire and Emergency Services are responsible for the enforcement of this state-issued burning ban in unincorporated Cobb County, and the cities of Acworth, Kennesaw, and Powder Springs.

From May 1- September 30, you may not burn leaves, tree limbs, or other yard waste, forest land or use air curtain destructors for land clearing.

Burning Allowed October 1 – April 30

During this time, you may burn limited yard debris (leaves, pine straw, and small limbs from growth on your property) and land clearing using an air curtain destructor. The following restrictions for burning also apply:

DO's for ALL types of fire

- ◆ Burning is allowed between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and one hour before sunset
- ◆ Burning must be constantly attended by an adult who must be outdoors within 100 feet of the fire and watching the fire at all times.
- ◆ A water-charged hose must be on hand and ready for use if needed to limit or extinguish the fire. The nozzle of such water hose must be kept within 25 feet of the fire.
- ◆ **When extinguishing an outdoor fire, no smoldering or hot coals shall remain.**
- ◆ **You can burn logs or clean wood.** Clean wood means natural wood which has not been painted, varnished, or coated with a similar material; has not been pressure treated with preservatives; and does not contain resins or glues as in plywood or other composite wood products.

DON'Ts for ALL types of fire

- ◆ No burning is allowed on windy days (10 mph or higher) or on days when the atmospheric conditions (cloudy, overcast, or raining) would cause the smoke to remain low to the ground.
- ◆ **Never leave a fire unattended.**
- ◆ Fires may not be started with petroleum-based products.
- ◆ Burning in a barrel or metal drum is prohibited.
- ◆ Burning garbage is prohibited – which means any waste material that includes but is not limited to plastic products, Styrofoam, fiberglass, recycling wire (burned to access metal), tires, clothing, furniture, mattresses, boxes, papers, stumps, root balls, and kudzu vines. Any material that is moved from one location to a different property cannot be burned.
- ◆ A homeowner with a large pile of brush in their yard and frequently having a small fire is **not** considered a recreational fire. People sitting around a small campfire would be considered a recreational fire.

FIRES THAT **DO NOT** REQUIRE A PERMIT :

(SEE QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE FOR ADDITIONAL INFO)

- RECREATIONAL FIRE
- (SMALL) YARD WASTE – No bigger than 6'x6'

FIRES THAT **REQUIRE** A PERMIT:

- (LARGE) YARD WASTE – Between 6'X6' and 12'x12'
- BONFIRE
- LAND CLEARING USING AN AIR CURTAIN DESTRUCTOR (CALL 770-528-8313)

Types of Fires Allowed All Year

Certain types of fires are allowed all year, even during the burn ban, as listed below.

- ◆ **RECREATIONAL FIRE (NO PERMIT REQUIRED)**
- ◆ **BONFIRE (PERMIT REQUIRED)**
- ◆ Fires burned for the purpose of cooking food for immediate human consumption, e.g., barbecue grill or pit.
- ◆ Fires in an outdoor fireplace, chimenea, fire bowl, or other similar device burning logs or clean wood only.

RESTRICTED BURN AREAS

There are several locations in Cobb County designated as restricted burn areas. Please see the maps at www.cobbfire.org.

NOTE: During the burning period, fire officials may prohibit burning at times when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make burning hazardous.

Even if you follow all of the guidelines for burning, you may be required to extinguish the fire if it adversely interferes with another's enjoyment of life, use of property, or if someone with a health problem is affected.

For information regarding alternative methods to dispose of yard waste, contact the Georgia Environmental Protection Division at 404-362-2537.





General Penalties and Fines

- First Violation:** Advised of corrective actions, written notice
- Second Violation:** Summons issued and a fine of \$100.00 assessed.
- Third Violation:** Summons issued and a fine of \$250.00 assessed.
- Fourth Violation:** Summons issued and a fine of \$500.00 assessed.
- Fifth and any Subsequent Violations:** Summons issued and a fine of \$1,000.00 assessed and/or six months in jail.
- Land clearing without permit-** \$500 first violation
- Yard waste fire larger than 12' x 12'-** \$100 first violation
- Damage to property of another person or out of control fire-** \$100 first violation

If you have a complaint or problem regarding burning in your area, please call 911 when the active burning is occurring.

NOTE: This document does not contain all of the requirements for outdoor burning in each category. For more information regarding outdoor burning requirements, reference the Cobb County Outdoor Burn Ordinance, Article VII, Section 54-111.

Quick Reference Guide

<p>Max. 3' Wide</p>  <p>Max. 2' High</p>	<p>Recreational Fire NO PERMIT REQUIRED</p> <p>Minimum 25' away from any structure Burning of logs or clean wood only Between hours 10:00am – 10:30 pm Attended by an adult within 100' at all times Water charged hose on hand Purpose: pleasure, religious ceremonial, cooking, warmth, or similar purpose</p>
<p>Max. 6' X 6'</p> 	<p>(SMALL) Yard Waste NO PERMIT REQUIRED</p> <p>Minimum 50' away from any structure Minimum 25' from roads with speed >35mph Burning of yard debris only; no bigger than 6' in diameter Between hours 10:00am – 1 hour before sunset Attended by an adult within 100' at all times Water charged hose on hand</p>
<p>Max. 12' X 12'</p> 	<p>(LARGE) Yard Waste PERMIT REQUIRED</p> <p>Minimum 300' away from any structure <u>not owned</u> by property owner Minimum 100' away from any property line or structure owned by the property owner. Burning of yard debris only Burning of stumps or rootballs is prohibited Between hours 10:00am – 1 hour before sunset Attended by an adult within 100' at all times Water charged hose on hand</p>
<p>Max. 12' X 12'</p> 	<p>Bonfire PERMIT REQUIRED</p> <p>Burning of logs or clean wood only Minimum 50' away from any structure Minimum 100' from any property line. Between hours 10:00am – 10:30 pm Attended by an adult within 100' at all times Water charged hose on hand Ceremonial Purposes ONLY</p>