

GEORGIA FORESTRY
COMMISSION



News Release

For more information, contact:

Stasia Kelly

478.515.9913

skelly@gfc.state.ga.us

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BURN PERMITTING RESUMES IN MOST STORM-STRUCK GA COUNTIES

The Georgia Forestry Commission has resumed issuing burning permits in all but 17 Georgia counties hit hard by Hurricane Michael. Burn permitting was temporarily suspended last week in 108 counties where a state of emergency was declared due to safety issues and resources that were committed to storm recovery.

The 17 counties in which burn permitting is still suspended are: Baker, Calhoun, Clay, Colquitt, Crisp, Decatur, Dougherty, Early, Grady, Lee, Miller, Mitchell, Randolph, Seminole, Terrell, Thomas, and Worth.

“These 17 counties continue to have major power outages,” said Georgia Forestry Commission Chief of Protection Frank Sorrells. “Many responders remain on scene, clearing downed trees and debris from roads and public facilities. Open burning could add to the complication for emergency personnel and power companies as they work to restore service.”

The Georgia Forestry Commission has more than 150 rangers and foresters engaged in emergency response efforts across south Georgia. In addition to helping power companies gain access to downed power lines to restore electricity, personnel are coordinating recovery efforts and providing resources for other agencies responding to the state of emergency.

“Until the situation becomes stable, we’re asking residents in those 17 counties to refrain from conducting any open burning,” Sorrells said. “The GFC will continue to evaluate conditions and the situation on a daily basis and make decisions about when it’s feasible to resume issuing permits within these counties.”

Burning permits can be obtained by calling the local GFC office that serves your area. For yard debris and hand piled natural vegetation please call 1-877-OK2-BURN or visit GaTrees.org.

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