



# News Release

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## **FLOYD/POLK COUNTY FIRES NOT INTENTIONALLY SET**

The cause of fires that have burned at least 50 acres in Floyd and Polk Counties this week has been determined. An investigation conducted by the Georgia Forestry Commission shows a malfunctioning exhaust system on an automobile's catalytic converter sparked the initial blazes on Tuesday, October 25.

"Despite some reports, the fires were not intentionally set, nor are they suspicious in any way," said Brian Clavier, Chief of Law Enforcement for the Georgia Forestry Commission. "Three structures were damaged in a series of about a dozen fires," he said.

The fires burned in the Booger Hollow community along US Highway 27 near Rome. According to Kris Butler, Assistant Manager of the Georgia Forestry Commission's Coosa District, the fires have all been contained, and mop-up operations are being completed. Because heavy fuels contributed to the fires, flare-ups are possible well inside fire lines and the GFC will continue to monitor the situation. Butler said smoke may be visible in the area through the weekend.

The Georgia Forestry Commission partnered with several local agencies to fight the fires and determine their cause. Those agencies include the Cedartown, Polk County, and Floyd County Police Departments, as well as the Rome-Floyd County Fire Department.

Georgia's deepening drought has increased the danger of wildfire throughout the state. The GFC is urging extreme caution when using any type of flame outdoors and burn permits have been suspended in some areas.

For more information about burn permits, fire safety and services of the Georgia Forestry Commission, visit [GaTrees.org](http://GaTrees.org).

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