



# GEORGIA'S OUTDOOR BURN NOTIFICATION SYSTEM FACT SHEET

## CHANGES TO GEORGIA'S OUTDOOR BURN NOTIFICATION SYSTEM (SENATE BILL 119 – O.C.G.A. 12-6-90)

**WHAT:** Changes are being made to Georgia's outdoor burn notification system. The law no longer requires a burner to inform the GFC online or by phone about their intention to burn leaf piles and yard debris. New legal safety requirements are now specified for this type of debris burning.

**WHEN:** Effective **July 1, 2021**.

**WHERE:** All Georgia counties. Local ordinances supersede 12-6-90 and the Environmental Protection Division's summer burn ban remains in effect (May 1- Sept. 30) in 54 northern Georgia counties.

**WHO:** Any person, firm, corporation or association intending to burn hand-piled natural vegetation/yard debris in Georgia.

**WHY:** To reduce the number of wildfires in Georgia and protect landowners' right to burn, the changes shift safety responsibilities and awareness to those conducting outdoor burning of hand-piled natural vegetation.

**HOW:** FIVE safety precautions are mandated by the new law.

BEFORE YOU BURN...  
TAKE 5!



**S** **Space** – 25+ feet between fire and woodlands.

**S** **Space** – 50+ feet between fire and structures.

**T** **Time** – Sunrise to sunset.

**A** **Attendance** – Person responsible stays onsite until fire is completely extinguished and there is no risk of burn escaping.

**R** **Reasonable Precautions** – Some examples are: tools/measures in place to prevent escaped fire. These include: continuous pressurized water source on site; man-made or natural barrier to contain fire, such as bare soil, rocks, bricks, burn barrel, etc.; hand tools or fire-containing equipment on site, such as rake, shovel, garden hoe, etc.; weather awareness – to NWS red flag warnings, High Fire Danger designation of Very High or Extreme days and other hazardous conditions, low relative humidity, high winds, etc.

**OTHER:** Agriculture, silviculture and land-clearing burns for residential or commercial development DO require notification to the county forest ranger and a permit IS still required for these activities.

- Person responsible is liable for damages to adjacent properties due to fire escape.
- Unlawful Burn Notices may be issued and suppression charges may apply if the stated safety requirements weren't followed and wildfire results.

