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Administrative Order Instituting Burn Ban in 91 Counties

WHEREAS: Pursuant to Code Section 12-6-83, the Georgia Forestry Commission, through the Director, is charged with directing and supervising all forest fire protection work in the state; and

WHEREAS: Code Section 12-6-17 provides that the Director may issue an order banning outdoor burning in one or more counties when, in his or her judgment, "drought or other conditions" make controlled burns of "woods, lands, marshes, refuse, or other combustible materials" unusually hazardous; and

WHEREAS: Such an order shall have the force and effect of law; and

WHEREAS: South Georgia is in exceptional drought conditions that continue to worsen; and

WHEREAS: There are presently an unusually large number of active wildfires in the state, many of which started from outdoor burns; and

WHEREAS: A temporary burn ban is necessary to preserve life and property due to unusually hazardous conditions.

THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO CODE SECTION 12-6-17, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

That a temporary ban on the burning of any woods, lands, marshes, refuse, or other combustible materials shall go into effect in the following counties: Appling, Atkinson, Bacon, Baker, Ben Hill, Berrien, Bibb, Bleckley, Brantley, Brooks, Bryan, Bulloch, Burke, Calhoun, Camden, Candler, Charlton, Chatham, Chattahoochee, Clay, Clinch, Coffee, Colquitt, Columbia, Cook, Crawford, Crisp, Decatur, Dodge, Dooly, Dougherty, Early, Echols, Effingham, Emanuel, Evans, Glascock, Glynn, Grady, Harris, Houston, Irwin, Jeff Davis, Jefferson, Jenkins, Johnson, Lanier, Laurens, Lee, Liberty, Long, Lowndes, Macon, Marion, McDuffie, McIntosh, Miller, Mitchell, Montgomery, Muscogee, Peach, Pierce, Pulaski, Quitman, Randolph, Richmond, Screven, Schley, Seminole, Stewart, Sumter, Talbot, Tattnall, Taylor, Telfair, Terrell, Thomas, Tift, Toombs, Treutlen, Turner, Twiggs, Ware, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Webster, Wheeler, Wilcox, Wilkinson, Worth (the "Affected Counties").

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That such temporary ban shall apply to all activities subject to regulation by the State Forestry Commission, including, but not limited to, prescribed silvicultural burns, agricultural burns, and the burning of leaf piles or yard debris, regardless of whether such activities require a permit from the State Forestry Commission.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That no permits for burning shall be issued in the Affected Counties for the duration of this Order.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That if one or more provisions in this Order shall be held to be invalid, in violation of the Georgia Constitution, in violation of Georgia law, or unenforceable in any respect, such invalidity, violation, or unenforceability shall not affect any other provisions of this Order, and, in such case, this Order shall be construed as if such invalid, illegal, or unenforceable provision had never been contained within the Order.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That no provision of this Order shall limit, infringe, suspend, or supplant any judicial order, judgment, or decree issued pursuant to the laws or constitution of this State or the laws or constitution of the United States, nor shall any person use any provision of this Order as a defense to an action in violation of a judicial order, judgment, or decree by any court created pursuant to the laws or constitution of this State or the laws or Constitution of the United States.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That all provisions of this Order shall be effective upon signature and shall be valid for a period of thirty (30) days, expiring Friday, May 22, 2026, at 11:59 P.M., unless extended by the Director.

This 22 day of April 2026.


John J. Sabo
Director, Georgia Forestry Commission