



Manchester Fire Department

234 Perry Street, P.O. Box 366

Manchester, Georgia 31816

Office: (706) 846-2834

Fax: (706) 846-8622

Ben Williams, Fire Chief

May 2, 2023

Please print in your paper.

From the Georgia Forestry Commission:

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
APRIL 26, 2024**

Do your summer activities impact the air you breathe? They can if you drive a car or do some outdoor burning! When particulate matter from vehicles and smoke gets trapped in hot air, it contributes to higher ozone levels, and that's been linked to lung and heart disease in humans.

To help diminish air issues surrounding ozone pollutants, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division has instituted an outdoor burn ban every summer since 2005. While campfires, cooking fires, and some agriculture burns are permitted, 54 mostly north and central Georgia counties (listed below) do not allow yard and land debris clearing burns from May 1 to September 30. For complete details, visit <https://epd.georgia.gov/air-protection-branch/open-burning-rules-georgia>.

Georgia law classifies outdoor burning in several categories. In counties not included in the outdoor burn ban, the Georgia Forestry Commission reminds residents they must continue to follow specific laws, fire safety guidelines, and any local ordinances governing outdoor burning. The five safety precautions now mandated by law include set spacing between

fires and woodlands and structures, burn times from sunrise to sunset, burner attendance at the fire, and reasonable precautions such as weather awareness and suppression tools. Full details including video resources can be found at <https://gatrees.org/burn-permits-and-notifications/>.

Georgia's outdoor summer burn ban is in effect May 1-September 30 in the following counties: Banks, Barrow, Bartow, Bibb, Butts, Carroll, Catoosa, Chattooga, Cherokee, Clarke, Clayton, Cobb, Columbia, Coweta, Crawford, Dawson, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Floyd, Forsyth, Fulton, Gordon, Gwinnett, Hall, Haralson, Heard, Henry, Houston, Jackson, Jasper, Jones, Lamar, Lumpkin, Madison, Meriwether, Monroe, Morgan, Newton, Oconee, Paulding, Peach, Pickens, Pike, Polk, Putnam, Richmond, Rockdale, Spalding, Troup, Twiggs, Upson, Walker, and Walton.

Thank you.

Ben Williams, Fire Chief

Manchester Fire Chief