



Forsyth County Fire Department **OUTDOOR BURN FACT SHEET** **FOR LEAF PILES + YARD DEBRIS**

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 Georgia Forestry Commission 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.

No burns are authorized when the humidity is less than 25% or the winds are greater than 10 M.P.H.

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, including Forsyth County.

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

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.

REMEMBER THE SERIOUS SEVEN:

Seven safety precautions that are mandated by Forsyth County ordinance.

1 AN ALLOWED BURNING DAY



Burning is allowed daily unless deemed unsafe by the Forsyth County Fire Department. Before burning, call **(770) 781-2180** or check **forsythco.com**. Burning is not authorized when the humidity is less than 25% or the winds are greater than 10 M.P.H.

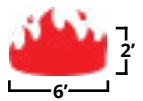
2 ATTENDANCE



The person responsible must stay with the fire until it is completely extinguished and there is no risk of escape.

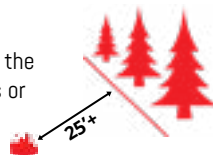
3 SIZE

Only naturally fallen debris, piled no larger than **6 feet** in diameter and **2 feet** high. No more than two piles may be burning at a time.



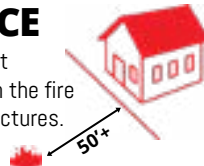
4 SPACE

25+ feet between the fire and woodlands or the fire



5 SPACE

50+ feet between the fire and structures.



6 TIME

ONLY 10:00 A.M. to one (1) hour before sunset.



7 REQUIRED REASONABLE PRECAUTIONS



Tools/measures in place to prevent escape of the 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.

