



Montgomery County Central Permitting

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For Immediate Release: Montgomery County Issues Local Burn Ban on Open Burning Effective March 30, 2026

Montgomery County, NC: Effective at 2:00 P.M. Monday, March 30, 2026, Montgomery County Fire Marshals Office has issued a local burn ban on **ALL** open burning in all areas of Montgomery County (NC Fire Code 307.1.1). Our office will be also implementing a countywide burn ban that **prohibits open burning within 100' of structures**. The burning ban does not apply to charcoal or gas grills provided fire safety precautions are taken.

A State burn ban was issued by North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services due to hazardous forest fire conditions, using authority under the law (NC G.S. 106-944 & 106-946) to cancel all burning permits and prohibit all open burning.

Statement From NC Agriculture & Consumer Services

“It is spring wildfire season in North Carolina, and we are seeing wildfire activity increase due to dry conditions,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. “With these ongoing conditions, a statewide burn ban is necessary to reduce the risk of wildfires starting and spreading quickly. Our top priority is always to protect lives, property and forestland across the state. It is imperative that folks adhere to this burn ban until further notice.

Under North Carolina law, the ban prohibits all open burning in the affected counties, regardless of whether a permit was previously issued. The issuance of any new permits has also been suspended until the ban is lifted. Anyone violating the burn ban faces a \$100 fine plus \$183 court costs. Any person responsible for setting a fire may be liable for any expenses related to extinguishing the fire.

The N.C. Forest Service and Montgomery County Fire Marshal’s office will continue to monitor conditions. The burning ban will remain in place until further notice. For questions about the burn ban please contact the Montgomery County Office at 910-576-4221.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

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Answers to FAQ

Q: What is open burning?

A: Open burning includes burning leaves, branches or other plant material. In all cases, burning trash, lumber, tires, newspapers, plastics or other nonvegetative material is illegal.

Q: May I still use my grill or barbecue?

A: Yes, if no other local ordinances prohibit their use.

Q: How should I report a wildfire?

A: Call 911 to report a wildfire.

Q: How should I report a person who intentionally starts a wildfire?

A: Call 911 to report a wildfire.

Q: My local fire marshal has also issued a burn ban for my county. What does this mean?

A: The burn ban issued by the N.C. Forest Service does not apply to a fire within 100 feet of an occupied dwelling. Local government agencies have jurisdiction over open burning within 100 feet of an occupied dwelling. The N.C. Forest Service has advised county fire marshals of the burning ban and has asked for their consideration of also implementing a burning ban. If a fire within a 100-foot area of a dwelling escapes containment, a North Carolina forest ranger may take reasonable steps to extinguish or control it. The person responsible for setting the fire may be liable for any expenses related to extinguishing the fire.

Q: Are there other instances which impact open burning?

A: Local ordinances and air quality regulations may impact open burning. For instance, outdoor burning is prohibited in areas covered by Code Orange or Code Red air quality forecasts. Learn more about air quality forecasts at <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/air-quality/air-qualityoutreach-education/air-quality-forecasts>.

Q: Can I have a campfire when I go camping?

A: Campfires would be considered open burning and are not exempt from the burn ban. During a burn ban, portable gas stoves or grills are alternate methods for cooking food while camping.

Q: What can I do to protect my house against the risk of wildfire?

A: Learn about wildfire risk assessments and preparedness and prevention plans on the N.C. Forest Service website at https://www.ncforestservice.gov/fire_control/fc_wui.htm or <https://www.resistwildfirenc.org/>.