



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Georgia Environmental Protection Division Announces Annual Ban on Open Burning**

Beginning May 1, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) open burning ban will be in effect for 47 Georgia counties. The ban will begin June 1 in seven additional counties, which were given extra time to clear vegetative debris from April storms. (Banks, Catoosa, Chattooga, Floyd, Gordon, Upson and Walker counties.)

Typically, the ban prohibits citizens and businesses from burning yard and land-clearing debris during the summer ozone season, which runs from May 1 through September 30. This is in addition to the rule that prohibits the burning of household garbage. Burning household garbage is never allowed anywhere in Georgia.

Recreational activities such as campfires and grilling are exempt from the open burning ban. Burning of vegetative materials at agricultural operations is also exempt.

Some Georgia counties and cities have burning restrictions that are more stringent than the EPD open burning ban. EPD recommends that citizens check with their local Fire Marshall and the Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) before conducting any burning. Permits for hand-piled, natural vegetation collected on site can be secured online at [GaTrees.org](http://GaTrees.org) or by calling 1-877-OK2-BURN. Permits for any other types of burning should be obtained by contacting the county GFC office.

Citizens can access more information on the open burning ban by visiting <https://epd.georgia.gov/> and clicking on "Open Burning Rules for Georgia" under Popular Topics, or by calling the EPD District Office serving their area.

Counties included in the ban and contact information for the corresponding EPD District Office are as follows: (Burn ban is effective June 1 in Banks, Catoosa, Chattooga, Floyd, Gordon, Upson and Walker counties.)

- Mountain District Office (Atlanta): 404-362-2671 Carroll, Clayton, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Gwinnett, Heard, Henry, Rockdale, and Spalding counties.

- Northeast District Office (Athens): 706-369-6376 **Banks**, Barrow, Butts, Clarke, Hall, Jackson, Jasper, Madison, Morgan, Newton, Oconee, Putnam, and Walton counties.
- East Central District Office (Augusta): 706-667-4343 Columbia and Richmond counties.
- West Central District Office (Macon): 478-751-6612 Bibb, Crawford, Houston, Jones, Lamar, Monroe, Peach, Pike, Twiggs, **Upson**, Meriwether, and Troup counties.
- Mountain District Office (Cartersville): 770-387-4900 Bartow, **Catoosa**, **Chattooga**, Cherokee, Cobb, Dawson, **Floyd**, Forsyth, **Gordon**, Haralson, Lumpkin, Paulding, Pickens, Polk, and **Walker** counties.

For more information about alternatives to burning, such as composting and chipping, please visit <https://epd.georgia.gov/air-protection-branch/open-burning-rules-georgia/alternatives-burning>.

Debris can also be hauled to a commercial processing/grinding/composting operation or to an inert or construction and demolition landfill. For a list of landfills in your area, please call EPD's Solid Waste Management Program at 404-362-2692 and/or visit the Land Protection Branch website for more details: <http://epd.georgia.gov/land-protection-branch>

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