

Burning Ban Issued for Anson and 22 Other Counties

Bans needed to protect lives and property

On Monday, November 21 Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler banned open burning and canceled all burning permits for 22 more counties in North Carolina. Anson County was among the counties added to the list. Other counties are Alleghany, Ashe, Cabarrus, Caswell, Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Guilford, Iredell, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Randolph, Richmond, Rockingham, Rowan, Stanly, Stokes, Surry, Union, Wilkes and Yadkin counties.

The burning ban took effect at 5 p.m. on Monday, November 21 and will be in effect until further notice. Under North Carolina law the ban prohibits all open burning in the affected counties, regardless of whether a permit was issued. The issuance of any new permits also has been suspended until the ban is lifted. Violation of the ban carries a \$100 fine plus court costs of \$180.

Here are a few facts about the law regarding the ban on open burning:

- The burn ban does not apply to cooking fires such as grills or outdoor cookers.
- The ban does not apply to a fire within 100 feet of an occupied dwelling. County fire marshals 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 asked for their consideration of also implementing a burning ban. In addition, other local ordinances and air quality regulations may also impact open burning.
- If a fire within that 100-foot area 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 responsible for reimbursing the N.C. Forest Service for any expenses related to extinguishing it.
- Open burning includes burning leaves, branches and other plant material. In all cases, it is illegal to burn trash, lumber, tires, newspapers, plastics or other non-vegetative materials.
- Outdoor burning is also prohibited in areas covered by Code Orange or Code Red air quality forecasts.

Local fire departments and law enforcement officers are assisting the NC Forest Service in enforcing the burn ban.

The ban on open burning is necessary because of the dry weather conditions and the potential for the increase in human-caused wildfires in the region. As of Sunday, November 20, there have been 3,021 wildfires affecting more than 19,058 acres on state protected lands across North Carolina this year. In the mountains alone, there have been 1,203 fires that have burned 4,015 acres.

Those numbers do not include fires burning on federal lands, the Party Rock fire near Lake Lure and the Chestnut Knob fire. The Party Rock fire has burned 7,171 acres since it was first reported on November 5. The Chestnut Knob fire, burning in the South Mountain State Park, has burned 6,433 acres since it was first reported on November 6. These fires, combined with those on federal lands, have burned closed to 46,000 acres in western state-protected lands include state and private owned properties.

"Fire experts with the N.C. Forest Service feel the current drought situation and the increase in available forest fuels makes it necessary to increase the number of counties under the burn ban," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "We want to be proactive in our approach and take appropriate action to prevent the potential for human-caused wildfires."

An open burn ban is now in place for the entire counties of Alexander, Alleghany, Anson, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Cabarrus, Caldwell, Caswell, Catawba, Cherokee, Clay, Cleveland, Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Gaston, Graham, Guilford, Haywood, Henderson, Iredell, Jackson, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mecklenburg, Mitchell, Montgomery, Polk, Randolph, Richmond, Rockingham, Rowan, Rutherford, Stanly, Stokes, Surry, Swain, Transylvania, Union, Watauga, Wilkes, Yadkin and Yancey.

Anson County Fire Marshal Rodney Diggs has also issued burning ban on outdoor burning within 100 feet of a structure. During this ban no open burning shall be conducted at all within 100 feet of a structure; this includes any outdoor burning at residences.

No burning permits will be issued until the burning ban is lifted and no open burning will be allowed. Local fire departments and law enforcement officers are assisting the NC Forest Service in enforcing the burn ban.

Residents with questions can contact their Anson County Ranger Gary McLendon with the NC Forest Service at 704-848-4705 or Anson County Fire Marshal Diggs' office at 704-994-3272.

New Regional Agronomist for Anson County

Josh Mays recently joined the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services as a regional agronomist for Anson, Guilford, Lee, Montgomery, Moore, Randolph and Richmond counties. Mays is available to work with farmers on nutrient management issues related to crop improvement and yields. He holds a bachelor's degree in agricultural education and professional service from N.C. A&T State University and a turf management degree from N.C. State University. He is currently pursuing a master's degree in agricultural education and professional service from N.C. A&T.

"Josh's previous work experience at the Sandhills Research Station, as well as working as a consultant in the eastern part of the state, has given him a great deal of experience with the diverse horticultural and field crops and soil types in this region," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "He will be a knowledgeable resource for growers seeking advice on improving crop nutrition or managing plant-parasitic nematodes."

Regional agronomists are part of the Field Services Section of the department's Agronomic Services Division. They provide advice on crop fertilization, nutrient management, lime needs, soil testing, plant tissue analysis, use of animal wastes and composts, nematode analysis, and testing of source water and nutrient solutions. Growers interested in arranging a consultation with Mays can contact him at 910-973-0421 or at josh.mays@ncagr.gov.

Wadesboro Christmas Parade is Dec. 1

It's that time again to plan for the Wadesboro Christmas Parade. This year's parade will be held on Thursday, December 1 at 4 p.m. The uptown parade route will remain the same as in previous years - starting on Morven Road for the line-up and concluding at the Ray Shelton Ball Field for breakdown. The parade will move down Washington, Martin and Greene Streets.

Entries are being accepted by the Anson County Chamber of Commerce at any time between now and Wednesday, November 23. Floats, both professionally designed and homemade are eligible for entry. Anyone who is interested in participating with a float or display in the parade is urged to call the Chamber of Commerce at 704-694-4181 or email ansonchamber@windstream.net. They will provide you with the entry form and safety rules. You can also access everything you need at www.ansoncounty.org.

Professional floats are available. Or, better yet, make your own! Show the crowd how creative your organization is, and have fun putting your float together.

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Carolinan HealthCare System



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To qualify:

- Women must be 40 years or older
- Must not have insurance
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- Must not be pregnant or breast-feeding

Breast Health Awareness

Breast cancer is one of the most common cancers that a woman may face in her lifetime.

- * 1 in 8 women will get breast cancer
- * Breast cancer can happen at any age
- * Your chances of getting breast cancer increase as you get older
- * A mammogram can find breast cancer at an early stage that makes treating it easier

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Latoya Mallard at 828-446-6344

or email

Latoya.Mallard@carolinashhealthcare.org