

## Outdoor Burning Ordinance Restrictions

The following rules govern all burning, whether or not a written permit is required.

- Never leave an outdoor fire unattended
- The Fire Marshal's Office may temporarily prohibit any and/or all outdoor fires when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make fires hazardous
- Burning is not permitted when prevailing winds are predicted to be, or are, in excess of 15 miles per hour
- No burning is permitted when the National Weather Service issues a *Red Flag Warning* or a *Fire Weather Watch*
- No burning is permitted during an air pollution episode, such as an air pollution alert, warning, or emergency declared by proper authorities
- No burning is permitted when there is fog, rain, or a cloud base that is diffused or ill defined. You also must wait at least one day following the passage of a cold front before burning
- No burning of solid waste or household garbage is allowed
- No burning of any materials that emit a heavy dark smoke, such as rubber products, oils, roofing material, petroleum based products, etc.
- No burning when smoke presents a health hazard to persons in the vicinity of the fire. The Fire Marshal's Office is authorized to ban outdoor burning in a limited geographical area upon receipt of medical certification from a resident if they have a medical condition that is adversely affected by smoke
- No burning shall be conducted within 20 feet of flammable, combustible, or explosive materials unless otherwise specified by the Fire Marshal's Office
- No burning on Sundays or nights. Compliant bonfires, cooking fires, and recreational fires in chimneys and outdoor fireplaces may be burned on Sunday and at night provided all other criteria and restrictions are applied



The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) imposes a total ban on outdoor burning in Gwinnett County annually from May 1 to September 30.

Burn Information Line  
678.518.4979

[www.gwinnettfiremarshal.com](http://www.gwinnettfiremarshal.com)

The Burn Information line and website are updated daily by 9:00am

If you suspect someone is improperly burning please report it by calling  
770.513.5700

**gwinnettcounty**  
**Fire and Emergency Services**

408 Hurricane Shoals Road, NE

Lawrenceville, GA 30046

Phone: 678.518.4980

Burn Information Line: 678.518.4979

E-mail: [firemarshal@gwinnettcounty.com](mailto:firemarshal@gwinnettcounty.com)

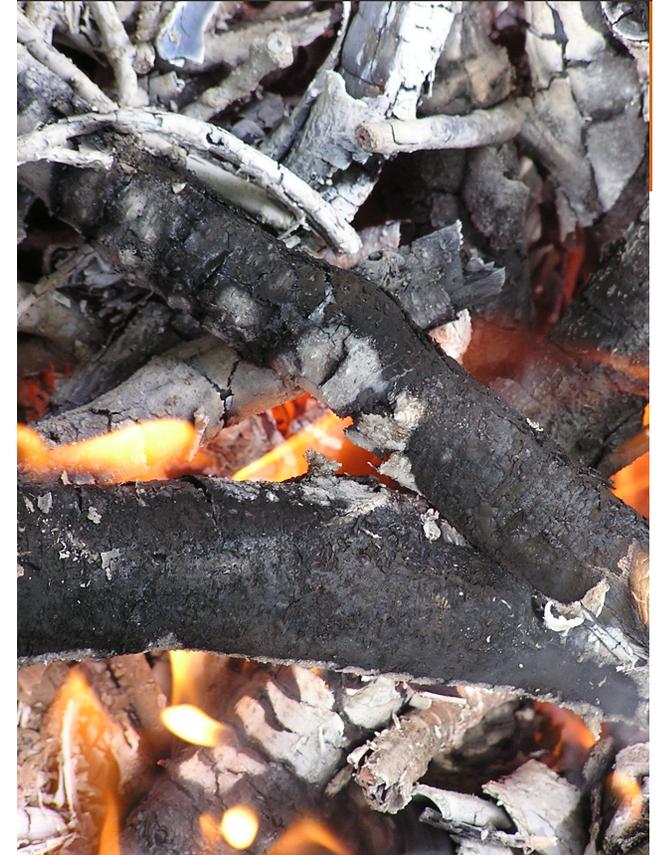
[www.gwinnettfiremarshal.com](http://www.gwinnettfiremarshal.com)

**gwinnettcounty**  
**Department of Fire and  
Emergency Services**

## Outdoor and Open Burning

Safe Burning Practices

Debris Burning is the burning of  
limbs, leaves, and natural vegetation



This information is derived from the Gwinnett County Fire Prevention and Protection Ordinance  
Article II Section 46-54

## Fires Allowed Without a Written Permit

The following types of fires do not require a written permit but must follow the outdoor burning ordinance restrictions.

### The burning of leaves, limbs, and natural vegetation that may fall on one's property

- The location for open burning of natural vegetation shall not be less than 50' from any structure and not less than 25' from a property line. Provisions shall be made to prevent the fire from spreading to within 50' of any structure and 25' from a property line
- Fires should be a size that is easily controlled under the conditions and with the resources available on the property

### Fires for the purpose of keeping warm

- Warming fires must be contained within a metal barrel of 55 gallon capacity or less
- Untreated wood or lumber are the only materials or substances permitted to be burned
- No on-ground warming fires are permitted
- The container for the warming fire cannot be less than 50' from any structure
- The outside temperature shall be 50°F or less

### Fires for the purpose of cooking food for human consumption

- Charcoal, wood, and gas grills and other open flame cooking devices shall not be operated on combustible balconies or within 10' of combustible construction with the exception of one and two family dwellings
- LP gas grills and burners having an LP gas container with a water capacity greater than 2.5 pounds (1 pound LP gas capacity) shall not be located on combustible balconies or within 10' of combustible construction with the exception of one and two family dwellings
- Open fires used for cooking must be more than 50' from any structure and provisions shall be made to prevent the fire from spreading

## Fires Allowed Without a Written Permit

Recreational fires in commercially available Chimineas or outdoor fireplaces:

- Chimineas or outdoor fireplaces shall be used according to their intended use, and the manufacturer's recommendations
- Chimineas or outdoor fireplaces shall have a Chimineas, screen, or other approved method to arrest sparks. Untreated wood, lumber, manufactured fire logs, or charcoal shall be the only substances permitted to be burned in Chimineas or outdoor fireplaces
- Chimineas or outdoor fireplaces shall not be operated inside structures, on combustible surfaces or balconies, or within 25' of combustible construction
- Chimineas or outdoor fireplaces shall have a non-combustible surface underneath to catch sparks

### How to extinguish your outdoor fire:

- Allow the natural vegetation to burn completely to ash
- Pour lots of water on the fire and drown all embers, not just the red ones
- Stir the fire ashes and embers with a shovel
- Scrape the sticks and logs to remove any embers
- Stir and make sure everything is wet. All materials should be cold to the touch
- If you do not have water, use dirt. Mix enough dirt or sand with the embers and continue adding and stirring until all material is cool

**Remember:** Do **not** bury the fire. The fire will continue to smolder. Tree roots could catch on fire which will eventually surface and start a wildfire. If it's too hot to touch, it's too hot to leave!

## Fires Requiring Written Permits

The following types of fires require a written permit

### Pit Fires:

- These fires are permitted for the purpose of land clearing and are by permit only through Gwinnett County Fire Plan Review
- No pit burning shall commence prior to an inspection of the site and the burn pit by a representative of the Fire Marshal's Office
- Upon approval, the permits are valid for 30 days. Permits may be extended for increments of 15 day periods without additional fees, with a maximum of two extensions

### Bonfires:

- No person shall kindle or maintain any bonfire or authorize any such fire unless the location is no less than 50' from structure with a size not to exceed four cubic feet of combustible materials and 100' from a structure with a size not to exceed five cubic feet of combustible materials
- For purposes of clarification, bonfires shall be limited to activities sponsored by civic, educational, religious, or other groups for the purpose of celebration, etc. An example would be a high school pep rally
- Bonfires shall be constantly attended by a competent person until the fire is extinguished. The attendant must have a garden hose connected to a water supply or other fire extinguishing equipment capable of extinguishing the fire readily available for use