

Media Advisory

from the South Carolina Forestry Commission



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Forestry Commission lifts burning ban for Pee Dee, Coastal counties

COLUMBIA—State Forester Gene Kodama has lifted the burning ban for all Pee Dee and Coastal counties, effective 8 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 23. The ban remains in effect for all Piedmont counties which include: **Abbeville, Anderson, Cherokee, Chester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, Lexington, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee, Pickens, Richland, Saluda, Spartanburg, Union and York.**

The ban was lifted for the Pee Dee and Coastal counties because of reduced winds and increasing relative humidity in the forecast.

The statewide ban was issued last Saturday because of weather conditions associated with a cold front that presented an elevated risk of wildfire. Most of the state experienced gusting winds and very low relative humidity, which combine with dry fuels on the ground to create the potential for outdoor fires escaping easily and spreading rapidly. The ban was also enacted as a precautionary measure because many of the agency's personnel and resources are currently deployed to the Pinnacle Mountain Fire at Table Rock State Park in Pickens County.

Two types of public outdoor burning are permitted in South Carolina:

Residential Yard Debris Burning

State law requires citizens to notify the Forestry Commission before burning outdoors. In most cases, the law applies to burning leaves, limbs and branches that people clean up from their yards. The notification law does not apply within town or city limits. Find every county's toll-free notification number on the SCFC home page or at <https://www.state.sc.us/forest/fyard.htm>.

Forestry, Wildlife, and Agricultural Burning

State law requires that you notify the Forestry Commission before burning for forestry, wildlife management or agricultural purposes. This includes burning for wildfire hazard reduction, brush control, endangered species management, wildlife habitat improvement, plant disease control, crop residue removal and preparation of land for planting trees or agricultural crops. All burning for forestry, wildlife and agriculture must comply with [SC Smoke Management Guidelines](#). To make notification, regardless of county, please call (800) 777-3473.

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As the only state agency responsible for wildfire suppression in all unincorporated areas of the state, the South Carolina Forestry Commission protects 12.9 million acres from wildland fire. More than 500 county, municipal and volunteer fire departments operate more than 1,100 fire stations in South Carolina. The Forestry Commission cooperates with these departments to prevent and control structural and wildland fires, employing highly trained firefighters and specialized equipment when fires burn into forested areas that are difficult to reach.

Did you know...?

An astounding 98 percent of all wildland fires are caused by human activities, and escaped debris burns are responsible for nearly 50 percent of them. South Carolina Forestry Commission firefighters respond to an average of 2,500 wildland fires every year, burning about 18,000 acres annually.