

Annual Burn Ban Lifted Oct. 1

9/30/2014

On Oct. 1 citizens of Hall County will again be allowed to burn... with the proper permits, that is.

Hall County Fire Marshal Scott Cagle said it is important to know the laws and regulations of burning.

Hall County Fire Services offers two types of permits, which are residential burn permits and land-clearing burn permits. A residential burn permit is for someone who cleans up their yard and wants to burn leaves and small tree limbs (no bigger than 3 inches in diameter). To obtain a residential burn permit you can call (770) 536-2442. This is an automated line and residents should follow the instructions. At the end of the recording you will receive a burn permit number good for that day only.

A land clearing burn permit is a different type of permit and different guideline need to be followed. Land clearing is defined as the clearing of larger parcels of land and the removing of trees. No matter the use of the land or for what the land is zoned, if you remove trees and want to burn them you must get a land clearing burn permit. This type permit requires an inspection from the Hall County Fire Marshal's Office and you must have a pit and an air curtain destructor before you can start burning. To obtain this permit you must call the Hall County Fire Marshal's Office at (770) 531-6838 Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. You must give the Fire Marshal's Office at least 24 hours' notice to ensure your inspection.

The clarification this year is on agricultural burning. Per the Environmental Protection Division (EPD), the only agricultural burns that are permitted are the burning of crops (i.e. corn), fields of grass, wheat or rye. This means if you are clearing trees for a pasture you will need a land clearing burn permit which requires a pit and air curtain destructor.

Regardless of the permit you obtain (residential or land clearing), the only material you are allowed to burn is natural plant growth. Citizens that burn any material other than plant growth or burn without a permit will be subject to a citation and fine.

Even though the ban is to be lifted on Oct. 1, it is possible it could be delayed if extreme fire conditions are present. These conditions consist of high winds and/or low relative humidity. You must call the burn permit line to check availability of permits the day you want to burn.

"We understand citizens want to burn their yard debris but life and property safety supersedes the privilege to burn - we want people to be as safe as possible," said Cagle.

If you have any additional questions, you are always encouraged to call the Hall County Fire Marshal's Office at (770) 531-6838 or you can get additional information at www.hallcountyfire.org