Illegal Burning

- Outdoor fires pollute the air
- Smoke is unhealthy to breathe
- Properly dispose of waste
- You can be fined for illegal burning

Never burn these items:

- Newspaper, cardboard and other paper products.
- Plastic and other synthetic materials.
- Paints, household and agricultural chemicals.
- Tires and other rubber products.
- Asphalt shingles and heavy oils.
- Lumber and other building materials.
- Wire.
- Buildings, mobile homes.

Burning is sometimes allowed:

Leaves, branches and yard trimmings can be burned, if no public pickup is available and you follow DAQ guidelines and local ordinances. Do not burn on Code Orange, Red or Purple days in areas with air quality forecasts. For forecasts, call 1-888-784-6224 or visit www.ncair.org. You may need a burning permit from the N.C. Forest Service; ncforestservice.gov/. For questions call 919-857-4801.
Land Clearers

- Know the law when burning debris from land clearing
- You can be fined for illegal burning

Burn piles must be at least 500 feet from occupied buildings.

Piles must contain only natural vegetative materials.

Fires must be started after 8 a.m., and new material can’t be added after 6 p.m.

Piles must be at least 250 feet from roads when the wind is blowing toward them.

Don’t burn on Code Orange, Red or Purple days in areas with air quality forecasts. For forecasts, call 1-888-784-6224 or visit www.ncair.org

You may need a burning permit from the N.C. Forest Service, ncforestservice.gov/. For questions, call 919-857-4801.

Some local governments prohibit outdoor burning.

Smoke from open burning pollutes the air and is unhealthy to breathe. Potential health effects include: lung and eye irritation, headaches, dizziness, asthma attacks, coughing and even death. Recycle or properly dispose waste.

North Carolina Division of Air Quality
www.ncair.org  919-707-8400

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