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BURN BAN ISSUED IN WHITFIELD COUNTY

The Whitfield County Fire Department and Emergency Management Department have requested a temporary emergency outdoor burn ban effective at 6:30 p.m. on November 13. The Burn Ban will remain in effect for thirty (30) days unless suspended by The Board of Commissioners.

Due to extremely dry conditions, this is an immediate ban on all types of outdoor burning including:

- brush fires;
- agricultural burning;
- trees;
- debris;
- campfires;
- open cooking fires;
- warming fires;
- and bonfires;

in unincorporated areas of Whitfield County, Georgia. This shall also include a ban on the use of consumer fireworks.

Presently, Whitfield County has 49% of land in an Extreme Drought, and 51% in an Exceptional Drought area. According to state records, October was the 8th Driest Month in the last 129 years, and 2023 the 58th Driest Year in the past 129 years. Similar conditions were present in 2016, when fires impacted our community.

Violation of this local burn ban could result in a \$1,000 fine and up to six months in jail. In addition, the Violator could be held responsible for any damages resulting from an out-of-control fire. The Fire Department has been instructed to extinguish all fires when encountered.

The Board of Commissioners also reminds the public that it is always illegal to burn matter other than natural vegetation.