



NEW HANOVER COUNTY

FIRE RESCUE

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Donnie Hall, Fire Chief



Date: May 24, 2021

New Hanover County Fire Rescue is issuing an open burning ban effective at noon today, Monday, May 24, because of the high heat and drought conditions, which increases risk of fire emergencies. The burn ban will be in effect until further notice.

The City of Wilmington and the towns of Carolina, Kure, and Wrightsville Beach each have their own restrictions on open burning, and this burning ban only applies to the unincorporated areas of New Hanover County.

“The lack of rain and high temperatures we’ve experienced are expected to continue for the time being, and these conditions increase risk of grass and wood fires and add significant challenges to fire containment,” said New Hanover County Fire Rescue Deputy Chief and Fire Marshal Frank Meyer. “The burning ban issued today is for the safety and security of residents and visitors to New Hanover County, and will be in effect until conditions change.”

The burning ban applies to open burning, including burning leaves, branches, or other plant material, as well as campfires and fire pits.

The burning ban does not include fires ignited and maintained within a container designed for the purpose of cooking. Residents are urged to exercise extreme caution when disposing of charcoal used for cooking and ensure that the charcoal has been thoroughly saturated with water or allowed to remain in a noncombustible container until all the heat is gone prior to disposal. Additionally, residents and visitors should always practice extreme caution when disposing of cigarettes and other smoking material outdoors and make sure they are completely extinguished prior to disposal.

In all cases, burning trash, lumber, tires, newspapers, plastics, or other non-vegetative material is illegal.

Additionally, the North Carolina Forest Service urges the public to postpone any outdoor burning, as warmer, drier weather patterns across the state increase fire danger, and will also institute a burn ban canceling all burn permits at noon today. To learn more, visit NCForestService.gov.

To learn more about New Hanover County Fire Rescue, visit FireRescue.NHCgov.com.



Frank D. Meyer
Deputy Chief / Fire Marshal