**A fire department logo with a firefighter axe and ladder

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 13NOV2023**

**Burning By the Rules**

"Once upon a time" there seemed to be no rules for when and how you could burn (anything) on your property. The fact is it's been illegal to burn man-made materials since the early 80s. So, what are the rules that apply in Chattahoochee Hills?

For starters, consider these three layers of protection and regulation ...

1. The Environmental Protection Division (EPD) of Georgia has created "base-line" rules (originated from Federal law), ...
2. The Georgia Forestry Commission has rules affecting agricultural and large-area burning, and ...
3. Chattahoochee Hills has its own burn ordinance (#17-06-169) as an extra layer of safety for everyone.

Here is how those regulations apply:

* If you are a typical residential property, you must burn according to all regulations referenced above. Specifically, EPD doesn't allow burning from May 1 - October 1 to improve summer-time air quality in the greater Atlanta area.  Also, you must adhere to the Chattahoochee Hills burn ordinance at all times ... which means the City enforces EPD requirements AND directs property owners to contact the Fire Department to obtain daily approvals. Sometimes requests are denied based on notifications from the National Weather Service (weather conditions) and Georgia Forestry (dry fuel conditions).
* If your property is zoned for agricultural use, AND if you are producing a harvestable crop, then you may burn vegetative debris 365 days of the year WHEN you adhere to Georgia Forestry guidelines AND notify your local fire department prior to burning.

The all-important dynamic that might be confusing is everyone must still abide by City of Chattahoochee Hills local burn ordinance. Federal and state laws allow the City to be more restrictive by having additional requirements. Afterall, the City's restrictions are very simple ... call before you burn and stick to the rules. Citations and penalties can be levied against rule-breakers.

For more information (or proof), consider details at the following websites:

<https://chatthillsga.us/departments/burn_permits___burn_ban.php>

[https://EPD.Georgia.gov](https://epd.georgia.gov/)

[https://GaTrees.org](https://gatrees.org/)

Phone CHFD Station 51 (770-463-8177) for daily approval to conduct burning of any type.

Remember: Burning household garbage, tires, synthetics, shingles, wire, construction materials or any non-vegetative debris is ILLEGAL by federal, state, and local laws.

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G. Brett, Chief  
Chattahoochee Hills Fire Rescue Dept.

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