

**A RESOLUTION AND ORDINANCE AMENDING
FORSYTH COUNTY RESOLUTION AND ORDINANCE 79,
THE FIRE SAFETY AND PREVENTION ORDINANCE,
WHICH ADOPTED THE STATE MINIMUM FIRE SAFETY
STANDARDS AND REVISED THE FIRE PREVENTION
ORDINANCE OF FORSYTH COUNTY, AS ENACTED
FEBRUARY 9, 1998 AND AS AMENDED ON SEPTEMBER
13, 1999.**

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the State of Georgia, approved by the voters of the State in November 1982, which became effective July 1, 1983, provides in Article IX, Section IV, Paragraph II thereof, that the governing authority of the county may adopt clearly reasonable ordinances, resolutions and regulations; and

WHEREAS, on February 9, 1998, the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners adopted Resolution and Ordinance 79, the Fire Safety and Prevention Ordinance, thereby adopting the State Minimum Fire Safety Standards and revising the Fire Prevention Ordinance of Forsyth County; and

WHEREAS, on September 13, 1999, certain portions of Resolution and Ordinance 79 were amended; and

WHEREAS, the 2010 census determined that Forsyth County's population exceeded for the first time 100,000 individuals; and

WHEREAS, O.C.G.A. §25-2-12 requires Counties with populations greater than 100,000, among other things, to adopt the state minimum fire safety standards adopted in the rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to the Georgia code; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Forsyth County deems it necessary to further amend certain portions of the aforesaid Resolution and Ordinance to comply with O.C.G.A. § 25-2-12 and to amend other portions in the interest of public safety, health and welfare pursuant to the County's police powers; and

WHEREAS, appropriate notice and hearings on the amendment contained herein have been carried out;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of Forsyth County, Georgia, and it is hereby resolved and ordained by the

authority of the same that Resolution and Ordinance 79 as amended is hereby further amended so as to make the said Resolution and Ordinance 79 when so amended read as follows:

AN ORDINANCE BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF FORSYTH COUNTY

AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE STATE MINIMUM FIRE SAFETY STANDARDS AND REVISE THE FIRE PREVENTION ORDINANCE OF FORSYTH COUNTY BY ESTABLISHING MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION PLAN REVIEW AND ISSUANCE OF CONSTRUCTION PLAN PERMITS; REVIEW OF ANY PLANS AT THE REQUEST OF THE CHIEF BUILDING OFFICIAL, REVIEW ALL SPRINKLER SYSTEM PLANS, ALARM SYSTEM PLANS AND COMMERCIAL HOOD SYSTEM PLANS; PROVIDE INSPECTIONS ON ALL CONSTRUCTION, CONDUCT SAFETY INSPECTIONS ON EXISTING BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES AND ISSUE A CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY PRIOR TO ANY BUILDING OR STRUCTURE BEING OCCUPIED.

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the State of Georgia, approved by the voters, of the State in November of 1982, and effective July 1, 1983, provides in Article IX, Section II, Paragraph I thereof, that the governing authority of the county may adopt clearly reasonable ordinances, resolutions and regulations; and

WHEREAS, O.C.G.A. § 25-3-4 authorizes counties to enact fire safety and fire prevention ordinances; and

WHEREAS, the governing authority of Forsyth County, to wit, the Board of Commissioners of Forsyth County, is desirous of executing its authority in adopting this ordinance; and

WHEREAS, it is requisite and proper for the security, welfare, health and convenience of the citizens of Forsyth County, Georgia, and for the preservation of peace and good order of said County, that the State Minimum Fire Prevention Standards be adopted and enforced and rules and regulations relating thereto be established.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of Forsyth County, Georgia; and it is hereby resolved and ordained by the authority of the same, as follows:

Section 1. Short Title.

This Ordinance shall be known as the “Fire Safety and Prevention Ordinance” and may be cited and referred to as such.

Section 2. Scope.

It is not intended by this Ordinance to repeal, abrogate, annul or in any way impair or interfere with existing provisions of other laws or ordinances, except those specifically repealed by this Ordinance or inconsistent therewith. Where this Ordinance imposes a greater restriction upon person, premises or personal property than is imposed or required by such existing provisions of law, ordinance, contract or deed, the provisions of this Ordinance shall control.

Section 3. Adoption of State Minimum Fire Safety Standards.

The state minimum fire safety standards in the rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to O.C.G.A. title 25, chapter 2 (O.C.G.A. § 25-2-1, et seq.) as same exist as of November, 2013, also known as the State Minimum Fire Safety Standards, are adopted by reference. There shall be no automatic adoption of future updates to the State Minimum Fire Safety Standards. Any future updates to said standards must be adopted by the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners pursuant to a formal Ordinance amendment. There shall be no less than one copy of such standards on file in the office of the Forsyth County Fire Department. In addition, the Uniform Act for the Application of Building and Fire Related Codes to Existing Buildings (O.C.G.A. § 8-2-200, et. seq) and any rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, including all subsequent revisions or amendments thereto, are adopted by reference.

Section 4. Enforcement of State Minimum Fire Safety Standards.

The Forsyth County Fire Department is authorized to enforce the State Minimum Fire Safety Standards in all buildings and structures identified in O.C.G.A. § 25-2-13, and also in all commercial buildings, commercial properties and places of public assembly in the unincorporated areas of Forsyth County.

Section 5. Bureau of Fire Prevention.

- (a) The Bureau of Fire Prevention in the Forsyth County Fire Department shall also be known as the Fire Safety Division.
- (b) The Fire Safety Division shall be under the supervision of the Chief of the Fire

Department or his designee.

- (c) The Fire Safety Division shall enforce the standards adopted by this Ordinance.
- (d) The person in charge of the Fire Safety Division shall be the Forsyth County Fire Marshal, who shall be appointed by the Chief of the Fire Department in accordance with the Forsyth County Merit System Rules and Regulations. The Fire Marshal shall have qualifications as set forth by the Chief of the Fire Department.
- (e) There shall be inspectors in the Fire Safety Division, appointed by the Chief of the Fire Department and the Fire Safety Division in accordance with the Forsyth County Merit System Rules and Regulations. The inspectors shall have the qualifications as set forth by the Chief of the Department. These inspectors shall conduct yearly, or as often as reasonably practicable, inspections of all existing buildings and structures described in Section Four.
- (f) The Fire Marshal and the Fire Safety Division are hereby authorized under the police powers of the Board of Commissioners to enter and inspect any building or structure which are identified in Section Four above, upon a showing that the public health or safety of the citizens of this County requires such entry and inspection, as anticipated and resolved by the inspection authorization granted in Section 10. Except under circumstances which require immediate entry or the exigencies of the situation demand otherwise, no entry or inspection under the authorization granted herein shall take place other than during normal business hours, further, the one making the entry and inspection shall first make known his purpose, seek permission for the entry from the one in control of the inspection, if requested to do so. Entry into a structure covered by this Ordinance without the assistance or collaboration of an occupant shall not occur unless there is imminent danger to the safety of persons within the structure.
- (g) Structures or existing equipment that are or hereafter become unsafe or deficient because of inadequate means of egress or which constitute a fire hazard, or are otherwise dangerous to human life or the public welfare, or which involve illegal or improper occupancy or inadequate maintenance, shall be deemed an unsafe condition. If during an inspection of a premises, a building or structure or any

building system, in whole or in part, constitutes a clear imminent threat to human life, safety or health, the Fire Marshal or his designee shall issue such notice or orders to remove or remedy the conditions as shall be deemed necessary, and shall refer the building to the Building Department for any repairs, alterations, or remodeling required.

- (h) The Fire Marshal or Deputy Fire Marshal shall be authorized to order the immediate evacuation of any occupied building deemed unsafe when such building has hazardous conditions that present imminent danger to the building occupants.
- (i) A report of the Fire Safety Division shall be made semi-annually and transmitted to the Board of Commissioners. It shall contain a report of all activities and inspections undertaken pursuant to this Ordinance along with any additional information that the Chief of the Fire Department may wish to include therein.

Section 6. Waivers and Variances.

Waivers and variances from the provisions of this Ordinance may be granted by the Chief of the Fire Department. Any application for a waiver or variance shall first be submitted to the Forsyth County Fire Marshal whose comments and recommendations shall be made available to the Chief of the Fire Department before any action is taken. The Forsyth County Fire Chief, or his designee, shall consult with the Director of Planning and Development before any waiver or variance is approved.

Section 7. Appeals from Orders.

The Chief of the Fire Department shall review, consider and take action on any appeal from the recommendation of the Fire Marshal, pertaining to this Ordinance. Any such appeal must be filed with the Chief of the Fire Department within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the order appealed from. Within thirty (30) days of receipt of such appeal, the Chief of the Fire Department shall issue a written determination affirming, modifying, or vacating the order appealed from. The records of any proceedings and the action of the Chief of the Fire Department may be reviewed by the Board of Commissioners. Such review by the Board of Commissioners shall be requested in writing within thirty (30) days of issuance of the Fire Chief's written determination, stating with particularity the basis upon which the written determination is being challenged, as well as identifying the

relief requested. The matter shall be placed upon the Board of Commissioners' next available agenda, at which time the Board may (1) decline to consider the matter, thereby constituting an affirmation of the Fire Chief's written determination; (2) consider the matter based entirely upon the record prepared and submitted by the Fire Chief; or (3) schedule a hearing wherein the individual requesting Board review and the Fire Chief or his designee may present information supporting their respective positions. In the event the Board of Commissioners utilizes options two or three, the Board shall render its decision within thirty (30) days of the hearing or meeting where the matter is considered.

Section 8. Fire Hydrants.

- (a) Water Mains and Fire Hydrants shall be installed and be under sufficient water pressure as set forth below, and ready for fire service prior to beginning construction with combustible materials. Slab work can be completed prior to installation of water mains and fire hydrants, but water must be available before any frame work of combustible materials is started; provided, however, that materials used in forming footings and foundations on grade shall not require the prior installation of water mains and fire hydrants.
- (b) Fire flow requirements shall be (750) gallons per minute for residential buildings and (1,500) gallons per minute for commercial and industrial buildings unless otherwise specified by the Fire Marshal. Residential fire flow requirements shall be no less than (1,000) GPM when the distance between structures is less than 20 feet. Fire flow requirements shall be verified and certified to Forsyth County by a Georgia registered engineer.
- (c) All water mains supplying fire hydrants shall be minimum of eight (8) inch ductile pipe; provided, however, that a six (6) inch "looped" main may supply a maximum of three (3) fire hydrants.
- (d) No fire hydrant shall be installed on a dead-end main that exceeds five hundred (500) feet.
- (e) Fire hydrants shall be placed a maximum of five hundred (500) feet apart as measured along an improved roadway.
- (f) Fire hydrants shall be installed along the Fire Department access roadway.
- (g) Fire hydrants shall be installed within six (6) feet of the edge of the pavement

with the “steamer” connection facing the roadway.

- (h) The “steamer” fire hose connection on all fire hydrants shall be above the final surface grade a distance not less than eighteen (18) inches, nor more than twenty-four (24) inches.
- (i) Commercial or industrial buildings provided with automatic fire sprinkler or standpipe systems shall have a three-way type fire hydrant placed within one hundred (100) roadway feet of the fire department connections.
- (j) Residential and multi-family occupancies provided with automatic fire sprinkler protection or standpipe systems shall have a three-way fire hydrant placed within one hundred (100) roadway feet of the fire department connection.
- (k) A fire hydrant shall be installed so that all exterior portions of all buildings shall be reached with hose lays not to exceed five hundred (500) feet by road travel.
- (l) No obstacle shall obstruct the approach or visibility of any fire hydrant or fire department connection, closer than five (5) feet in any direction, parallel with street access.
- (m) It shall be the responsibility of the property owner to maintain all privately-owned fire hydrants, as well as fire extinguishers, sprinkler systems, fire department connections (FDC), and emergency lighting as required by this Code. Such items shall be inspected at least annually, at the expense of the property owner, by a firm or company licensed to perform such inspections. Fire hydrants shall be tested in accordance with NFPA 291 (fire flow testing and marking of hydrants). A copy of the inspection report shall be submitted annually to the Forsyth County Fire Marshal.

Section 9. Electrical Service.

- (a) The Chief of the Fire Department, or other person acting under his direction or authority, is authorized to cut any electric wire when the same is deemed necessary to the control or prevention of any condition hazardous to life or property from fire or explosion. No cost to the County shall be incurred by any such action, nor shall the authority granted herein be construed or inferred to be an authorization or direction by the County for any person to assume any risk arising from the cutting of wires, nor as an assumption by the County of any

liability for personal injury or property damage from any cutting of wires under this section.

- (b) At the time of issuance of any new permit for a building, structure or property identified in Section 4, the building or structure shall be provided with an exterior means of shutting down the electrical power source. The means of shutdown shall be by switched disconnect, "Knox" remote electrical shutdown, shunt trip device, or other methods acceptable to the Fire Marshal. The location of the electrical disconnect shall be identified by permanent weather proof labeling consisting of a minimum of three inch red lettering on a white background. Signage marking the means of disconnect shall be readily visible and posted on or adjacent to the disconnecting device. Where multiple disconnects are present each one shall be permanently labeled with the number or address of the space or suite it serves.

Section 10. Inspection of Buildings and Structures.

- (a) The Fire Marshal shall inspect or cause to be inspected once yearly, or as often as reasonably practicable, all existing buildings and structures described in Section Four.
- (b) The Fire Marshal shall inspect or cause to be inspected at various intervals all construction work, required to have a construction permit, in all buildings and structures which are covered by this Ordinance, in conjunction with the Department of Planning and Community Development.
 - (1) An eighty (80%) percent completion inspection and a one hundred (100%) percent final inspection shall be obtained from the Fire Safety Division prior to a Certificate of Occupancy being issued and the building or structure being occupied.
 - (2) Projects consisting of multi-family residential buildings shall obtain a fifty (50%) percent completion inspection in order that the methods of sealing penetrations within and through walls can be inspected.

Section 11. Collection of Fees and Issuance of Permits and Approvals.

The Forsyth County Fire Department shall collect fees payable to Forsyth County as follows:

- (a) CONSTRUCTION PLAN REVIEW

(1)	5,000 Square Feet or Less	\$100.00
(2)	More than 5,000 Square Feet	2½¢ / sq. ft.
(3)	Site Plans	\$100.00
(4)	Sprinkler Plans	\$100.00
(6)	Fire Alarm Plans	\$ 50.00
(7)	Commercial Hood Plans	\$ 50.00
(8)	Hood Suppression Plans	\$ 50.00
(9)	Paint Booths.....	\$ 50.00
(10)	Paint Booth suppression systems	\$ 50.00
(11)	Storage Tanks (under 660 gallons)	\$ 50.00
(12)	All Other Structures (exempting tents, temporary membrane structures and canopies)	\$100.00

(b) OPERATIONAL PERMITS:

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|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| (1) | Explosives..... | \$150.00 |
| | <i>An operational permit is required for the manufacture, storage, handling, sale or use of any quantity of explosive, explosive material, fireworks, or pyrotechnic special effects</i> | |
| (2) | Raw Wood Waste Processing/Recycling Operations..... | \$150.00 |
| | <i>An operational permit is required for the processing wood chips, logged material, compost, mulch and raw products in excess of 200 cubic feet</i> | |

(c) INSPECTIONS

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|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| (1) | 50%, 80%, 100%, Annual and First Follow-up | No Charge |
| (2) | Second Follow-up | \$150.00 |
| (3) | All Other Follow-ups | \$200.00 |
| (4) | After Hours Inspection (at contractor's request) . . . | \$100.00 |
| (5) | Final Fire Inspection for Certificate of Occupancy
or Certificate of Completion | \$150.00 |

(d) COMMERCIAL BURNING PERMITS – \$500.00 per 30 days

The fee for inspection for Final Fire Inspection for Certificate of Occupancy or Certificate of Completion for new construction set forth in Subsection (c)(5) above shall

not apply to Final Fire Inspection Certificate inspections for buildings or structures existing as of the date of adoption of this Ordinance unless such inspections are deemed necessary due to occupancy type changes, major construction on the structure, or a major fire in the structure.

Section 12. Required Plans and Drawings

- (a) Owners, their agents or designees are required to submit plans and specifications of all proposed buildings, structures and property described in Section 4 and all building elements described in Section 11 of this Ordinance for review and approval by the Fire Marshal prior to commencement of construction. The same time constraints for review established by the Planning and Community Development Department of Forsyth County shall apply to the Fire Safety Division.
 - (1) Construction documents shall be submitted in one or more sets with each permit application. Plans shall be submitted according to procedures approved by the Fire Marshal, and in accordance with state law, rules, and regulations.
 - (2) Construction documents shall be dimensioned, and drawn upon suitable material. Electronic media documents are permitted to be submitted when approved by the Fire Marshal.
 - (3) Construction documents shall be of sufficient clarity to indicate the location, nature, and extent of the work proposed and show in detail that the work conforms to the provisions of the Fire Safety and Prevention Ordinance, and relevant laws, ordinances, rules and regulations, as determined by the Fire Marshal.
 - (4) The seal of an appropriate registered design professional, architect, or engineer, with original signature shall be affixed to plans in accordance with state law.
- (b) All drawings, specifications and/or pertinent documents, required to bear the stamp, seal and signature of a registered designer shall only be revised by the designer of record and bear his/her stamp or seal and signature on all revisions and details. Required revisions to stamped plans must be approved by the designer of record and shall be in the form of "hard-line" drawings. Fax

transmittals, electronic submittals, or written correspondence may be deemed acceptable alternatives subject to the approval of the Fire Marshal, or his designee.

- (c) (1) Plans and specifications shall be submitted to the Fire Safety Division according to this section and procedures approved by the Fire Marshal.
- (2) Whoever shall build, construct, or erect any building or structure without approved plans or in violation of approved plans, from which no appeal has been taken, shall be guilty of an offense under this ordinance.

Section 13. Persons allowed in the Vicinity of a Fire.

Whoever shall be and remain in the immediate vicinity of any fire, after being instructed to leave, shall be guilty of an offense under this Ordinance, except for the following persons: A person authorized by the Georgia Fire Safety Commissioner pursuant to Section 25-2-22 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, a member of the Board of Commissioners of Forsyth County, a law enforcement officer of the jurisdiction where the fire occurs, an owner of the property of his or her agent, an agent of an insuring insurance company, or one ordered to the scene by the Chief of the Fire Department or his representative.

Section 14. Crossing Fire Hose Prohibited.

No vehicle shall be driven over any unprotected fire hose of the Forsyth County Fire Department when laid down on any street, roadway, or private driveway without the consent of the fire department official in command, any person refusing to obey the legal orders and direction of the officer in charge of a fire shall be guilty of an offense under this Ordinance.

Section 15. Certain Officers Vested with Police Authority.

The Fire Marshal and other officers authorized by the Chief of the Fire Department may be sworn in by an appropriate official as law enforcement officers with the power to make arrest.

Section. 16. Response to Malfunctioning and/or False Alarms.

- (a) All False Alarms to a premise within a 4-hour period shall be considered as one

(1) violation. The Forsyth County Fire Department shall issue a written warning, via personal service or certified mail, to the owner of record of the premises for the first two (2) violations during a calendar year. Each subsequent malfunctioning or false alarm during a calendar year shall result in the following penalties:

- (1) For the third (3rd) False Alarm within a calendar year at a premises a fine of \$100.00 shall be imposed upon each responsible person charged and convicted, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 36-1-20.
- (2) For the fourth (4th) False Alarm within a calendar year at a premises a fine of \$250.00 shall be imposed upon each responsible person charged and convicted, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 36-1-20.
- (3) For the fifth (5th) and each subsequent False Alarm within a calendar year at a premises a fine of \$1,000.00 shall be imposed upon each responsible person charged and convicted, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 36-1-20.
- (4) Pursuant to Section 15, Chapter 10, Section 2, subparagraph 4 of the Official Code of Georgia, Annotated, any person or entity violating or failing to comply with any of the provisions of this ordinance may be summoned to the Forsyth County Magistrate Court for each violation and/or noncompliance, and upon conviction, shall be punished as provided by law.

- (b) If any alarm user alleges that an extraordinary or unusual circumstance led to their false alarm such that the false alarm should not be counted against them, and the false alarm is only their first or second false alarm for one (1) calendar year, then an appeal may be instituted. The appeal shall be in writing to the Forsyth County Fire Marshal within five (5) days of the false alarm. Upon notice of such appeal, the Fire Marshal shall issue a finding as to whether the false alarm warning shall stand.

Section 17. Unauthorized Fires.

Whoever shall set fire to any building, structure, automobile, truck, or any other vehicle, without first having obtained written permission from the Fire Marshal, shall be guilty of an offense under this Ordinance.

Section 18. Obstructing a Firehouse.

Whoever willfully and knowingly shall place or maintain any obstruction of any nature whatsoever in front of any firehouse shall be guilty of a violation of this Ordinance.

Section 19. Outdoor Burning

- (a) All burning operations in Forsyth County shall comply with "Rules for Air Quality Control" chapter 391-3-1 as written and as amended by the Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, Air Protection Branch unless specifically modified herein.
- (b) No person shall cause, suffer, allow, or permit open burning in any area of Unincorporated Forsyth County without a permit unless specifically identified as not requiring a permit. The following activities are allowed without a permit from and without the payment of a fee to Forsyth County, but subject to the described restrictions:
 - (1) ***Agricultural fires.*** Carrying out recognized agricultural procedures necessary for production or harvesting of crops. The Georgia Forestry Commission and Forsyth County Fire Department must be notified of the agriculture fire prior to the burn.
 - (2) ***Forest lands.*** The burning over of any forestland by the owner of such land (prescribed or slash burning). The Georgia Forestry Commission and Forsyth County Fire Department must be notified of the forest lands fire prior to the burn.
 - (3) ***Residential property maintenance***
 - (A) ***Leaf piles.*** Burning of leaf piles on the premises on which they fall by the person in control of the premises. A permit from the Georgia Forestry Commission must be obtained if required. No leaf burn pile shall be larger than six feet in diameter by two feet high. There shall be ten feet between burn piles. No burning within fifty feet of a structure or twenty-five feet from a property line. All fires must be constantly attended by a competent person sixteen years of age or older with the ability to extinguish the fire. There shall be no more than two burn piles burning at any time. No burns

of this type will be authorized when the humidity is less than 25% or the winds are greater than 10 MPH, as provided on the Georgia Forestry Commission daily “wind speed” and “humidity” database (<http://weather.gfc.state.ga.us/Maps.html>). Failure to comply with these rules which results in an uncontrolled fire or a valid complaint that requires the response of the Fire Department will result in the fire being immediately extinguished. In accord with O.C.G.A. § 12-6-90, pre-burn notice of such burning must be provided to the forest ranger of the county wherein such burning is to be made or to an employee of the forestry unit serving such county who is authorized to grant permits.

- (B) ***Other yard debris.*** Reduction of other “natural vegetation” such as trees, downed trees and parts thereof, pine straw, and sticks on the premises on which they fall by the person in control of the premises. A permit from the Georgia Forestry Commission must be obtained if required. No burn pile shall be larger than six feet in diameter by two feet high. There shall be ten feet between burn piles. No burning within fifty feet of a structure or twenty-five feet from a property line. All fires must be constantly attended by a competent person sixteen years of age or older with the ability to extinguish the fire. There shall be no more than two burn piles burning at any time. No burns of this type will be authorized when the humidity is less than 25% or the winds are greater than 10 MPH, as provided on the Georgia Forestry Commission daily “wind speed” and “humidity” database (<http://weather.gfc.state.ga.us/Maps.html>). Failure to comply with these rules which results in an uncontrolled fire or a valid complaint that requires the response of the Fire Department will result in the fire being immediately extinguished. A permit for such burning must be obtained from the forest ranger of the county wherein such burning is to be made or to an employee of the

forestry unit serving such county who is authorized to grant permits.

- (4) ***Recreation/cooking fires.*** For recreational purposes, cooking food for immediate human consumption, camp fires in designated camping areas and barbecue grills. Recreational bonfires are subject to the location and fuel type.
 - (5) ***Firefighter Training.*** Fires set for training firefighting personnel when authorized by the Forsyth County Fire Chief.
 - (6) ***Open flame equipment.*** Operation of devices using open flames such as tar kettles, blow torches, welding torches, portable heaters, and other flame-making equipment where approved safety measures are used.
 - (7) ***Explosives Packing materials*** Disposal of all packing material previously containing explosives in accordance with U.S. Department of Labor Safety Regulation.
 - (8) ***Miscellaneous.*** Setting and maintenance by contractors and tradesmen of miscellaneous small fires necessary to such activities as street paving, installation or repair of utilities provided such fires are kept small. This shall include warming fires subject to the following restrictions. Warming fires shall be contained within a metal barrel of 55-gallon capacity or less. Untreated wood or lumber shall be the only material or substance permitted to be burned. The container for the warming fire shall be not less than 25 feet from any structure. No on ground warming fires are permitted. Warming fires are only permitted when the temperature is 40 degrees Fahrenheit or less.
- (c) The following activities are allowed with a permit issued by the Forsyth County Fire Department, but no fee shall be charged for issuance of the permit, but subject to the described restrictions:
- (1) ***Bonfires.***
 - (A) No person shall kindle or maintain any bonfire or authorize any such fire to be kindled or maintained on any private or public land

unless the location is no less than 50 feet from a structure with a size not to exceed four cubic feet of combustible materials and 100 feet from a structure with a size not to exceed five cubic feet of combustible materials.

- (B) For purposes of clarification, bonfires shall be limited to activities sponsored by civic, educational, religious or other groups for purpose of celebration, etc. An example would be a high school pep rally.
 - (C) Bonfires shall be constantly attended by a competent person until such fire is extinguished.
 - (D) Such person shall have a garden hose connected to a water supply, or other fire extinguishing equipment, capable of extinguishing the fire, readily available for use.
- (2) ***Disease and pest control*** Open burning may be authorized for the control of disease and pest control. This authorization can be issued upon written request to the Fire Marshal.
- (3) ***Emergency burning*** The burning of storm debris on-site may be authorized by the Fire Marshal or his/her designee when there is no adequate disposal facility reasonably available.
- (d) The following activities are allowed with a permit issued by the Forsyth County Fire Department, along with the payment of such fee as shall be charged for issuance of the permit, subject to the described restrictions:
- (1) ***Land clearing.*** Open burning of vegetative material for the purpose of land clearing and/or the construction of right of ways. Unless otherwise covered in this Ordinance, permits shall only be issued when an Air Curtain Destructor (ACD) is being used and the following conditions are met:
 - (A) A permit is obtained from the Forsyth County Fire Department prior to initiation of any open burning.
 - (B) The location of the ACD is at least 300 feet from any dwelling or public road, street, or highway.

- (C) No more than one air curtain destructor is operated within a 10-acre area at one time or there must be at least 1000 feet between any two ACDs.
- (D) Only wood waste consisting of trees, logs, large brush and stumps which are relatively free of soil are burned.
- (E) Tires or other rubber products, plastics, heavy oils, asphaltic material, are not used to start or maintain the operation of an ACD.
- (F) The ACD is operated in accordance with operating procedures set forth by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. (available at Fire Department Headquarters)
- (G) The cleaning out of the ACD pit is performed in a manner to prevent fugitive dust.
- (H) Permits may be issued for open burning of agricultural land where the use of an ACD is not practical.

(e) The following activities are prohibited:

- (1) ***Aerial luminaries.*** Unmanned free floating devices capable of producing an open flame such as, but not limited to devices commonly known as sky lanterns, flying luminaries, floating lanterns and fire balloons.
- (2) ***Household garbage.*** The burning of "household" garbage, trash and construction debris.

(f) Notwithstanding any other provisions herein to the contrary, open burning shall be prohibited

- (1) When conditions are such that the burn may jeopardize the safety of life and/or property.
- (2) During an air pollution episode or when restrictions are imposed by a state or federal agency for any reason.
- (3) When smoke presents a health hazard to persons in the vicinity of the fire. The Fire Marshal's office shall be authorized to ban burning in a limited geographical area upon receipt of a medical certification from a resident that the resident has a medical condition adversely affected by smoke.

- (g) Notwithstanding any other provisions herein to the contrary, during the months of May, June, July, August and September the only approved open burning will be:
- (1) Recreational/cooking fires (Section 19(b)(4));
 - (2) Firefighter training (Section 19(b)(5));
 - (3) Open flame equipment (Section 19(b)(6));
 - (4) Explosives packing materials (Section 19(b)(7));
 - (5) Miscellaneous (Section 19(b)(8));
 - (6) Disease and pest control (Section 19(c)(2)); and
 - (7) Emergency burning (Section 19(c)(3)).
- (h) All fires authorized under this ordinance shall occur between 10:00 a.m. and one hour before sunset.
- (i) The Fire Marshal of the Forsyth County Fire Department or his/her designee will issue all required Forsyth County permits for land clearing burning, emergency burning, forest burning and disease and pest control burning.
- (j) The Fire Marshal or his/her designee may revoke permits at any time if conditions or permit restrictions require such, based on the available information provided by the Georgia Forestry Commission, the existing weather conditions and other environmental conditions at the site of the burn.
- (k) Permits for outdoor burning are valid for thirty days. Upon written request a fifteen-day extension could be made. The fee for a permit when required is \$500.00 per permit. The fee must be submitted prior the permit being issued. A permit is required for each ACD used and for each burn site.
- (l) A written notification to a person or company of a violation at one site shall be considered adequate notice of these regulations; any subsequently observed violations by the same person or company at the same or different site shall result in immediately appropriate legal action.
- (m) The Forsyth County Fire Department shall have the authority to cause any fire to be extinguished if it is determined that there is a danger to public safety, a danger to public or private property, a nuisance or sign of environmental harm.
- (n) The Fire Marshal or his designee may grant specific

exceptions or variances to any requirement of this section, upon written petition, if it is deemed necessary to protect the public health, safety, and general welfare.

- (o) The Fire Marshal or his designee shall have the authority to impose additional safety precautions or restrict burning, including the issuance of a complete open burning ban, if it is determined that open burning imposes a threat to the public health, safety and general welfare.
- (p) The company/contractor/landowner or their representatives in control of the property at the time of the burn is responsible for the compliance with the requirements of this Ordinance. All burns must be attended by a competent person 16 years old or older having the ability to extinguish the fire.
- (q) In addition to any other conditions, issuance of permit shall be subject to the following procedures:
 - (1) An applicant must contact the Forsyth County Fire Department Headquarters during normal business hours.
 - (2) Permits that do not require a site visit will be issued at the time of application.
 - (3) Where a site visit is required before issuance of a permit (land clearing burning, emergency burning, forest burning, and disease and pest control burning, bonfire), the application must be made at least 48 hours prior to the burn. A site inspection will be scheduled by the Fire Department. If, the site is found in order, a permit will be issued at that time.
 - (4) A permit must be obtained for each ACD used.
 - (5) Where a fee is required the fee must be paid at the time the permit is issued. Payments are accepted by credit card, check or money order made payable to Forsyth County.
- (r) Fire pits and outdoor fireplace structures located on residential lots shall comply with requirements of the Forsyth County Unified Development Code. Open fire pits shall be located a minimum of 25 feet from any structures.
- (s) Outdoor fireplaces, chimneas, fire bowls, and other similar devices, shall be constructed and used in compliance with manufacturer's instructions and recommendations and shall not be operated inside structures, on combustible

surfaces or within 25 feet of combustible material. The only materials that may be burned in such devices is untreated wood, lumber, manufactured fire logs, or charcoal.

Section 20. Fire Lanes.

- (a) Fire lane means an area designated by the Fire Marshal or his designee which provides access to fire department connections and fire hydrants and provides access for fire department vehicles to buildings. This includes all alleys, including private alleys, private ways or driveways, where parking of motor vehicles or other obstructions can interfere with ingress or egress of fire department vehicles and equipment.
- (b) Whoever shall park or otherwise leave an unattended vehicle or other obstruction in a fire lane, so designated by signs and/or painted curbing or other marking indicating a fire lane, shall be guilty of a violation of this Ordinance. Any vehicle obstructing a fire lane in violation of this Section may be removed at the direction of the Fire Marshal or his designee, or a law enforcement officer, the costs of removal and storage shall be borne by the owner of such vehicle and paid for him or her prior to the release of such vehicle. A warning may be issued for a first time violation of this section.
- (c) Specifications for fire lanes shall be as indicated on the official "Forsyth County Specifications for Fire Lane and Fire Protection Document" maintained in the office of the Fire Marshal.

Section 21. Fire Department Access Roadways

- (a) Fire Department access roadways shall have an unobstructed width conforming to Forsyth County construction standards and specifications, latest edition, and an unobstructed vertical clearance of not less than thirteen (13) feet six (6) inches.(b)

Fire Department access roadways shall be designed and maintained to support the imposed load of a fire apparatus and shall be surfaced to provide all-weather driving capabilities. Any dead-end Fire Department access roadway in excess of one hundred fifty (150) feet in length shall include a turnaround at the closed end conforming to Forsyth County construction standards and specifications, latest edition. The grade on all Fire Department access roadways

shall not exceed fourteen (14) percent and shall not be less than one (1) percent.

- (c) All turns contained in a Fire Department access roadway shall maintain the minimum road width.
- (d) All dwelling units shall have address numbers plainly legible and visible from the roadway. Letters shall be not less than four (4) inches high and shall contrast with their background.
- (e) Security Gates:
 - (1) Security gates installed over Fire Department access roadways shall be a minimum of fourteen (14) feet wide and shall not reduce other minimum width or vertical height requirements set forth in this Code.
 - (2) All security gates shall be maintained in working order. Any security gate not properly maintained will be chained open or removed at the owner's expense.
 - (3) Fire Department access through all security gates shall be by "Knox Key" or gates shall be siren activated in both directions.
 - (4) All security gates across Fire Department access roadways shall be subject to inspection and shall be approved by the Forsyth County Fire Marshal's Office upon installation.
- (f) At the time of issuance of any new permit for a building, structure or property identified in Section 4, the building or structure shall include a key box located on the exterior of the building or other approved location. Key boxes shall be of an approved type and shall contain keys necessary for immediate access for firefighting purposes.

Section 22. Attached Multi-Family Dwellings

- (a) All dwelling units in attached multi-family dwellings (two units or greater) shall be separated from each other by a wall and/or floor assemblies of not less than 1-hour fire resistive rating.
- (b) All dwelling units in attached multi-family dwellings (three units or greater) shall be protected throughout by an approved automatic sprinkler system in accordance with N.F.P.A. 13 or N.F.P.A. 13R. Listed quick response or listed residential sprinklers shall be used throughout all dwelling units.

Section 23. Penalties for Violation of this Resolution and Ordinance.

- (a) Criminal. Any person, firm or corporation who violates any provision of this Ordinance or the Codes adopted herein by reference, or fails to comply therewith, or who shall violate or fail to comply with any Order made hereunder, or who shall build in violation of any detailed statement or specifications or plans submitted and approved thereunder and from which no appeal has been taken, or who shall fail to comply with such an Order as affirmed or modified by the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners within the time set herein, shall, upon conviction, be deemed guilty of violating a county ordinance and shall subject the offender to the penalties prescribed by O.C.G.A. § 15-10-60. The imposition of one penalty shall not excuse the violation nor permit it to continue, and such persons shall be required to correct or remedy such violations or defects within a specified time.
- (b) Civil.
 - (1) In addition to, or in lieu of, criminal penalties set forth in Section 21(a) above, a civil penalty of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for each violation, after due notice thereof from constituted authority, shall be exacted from the owner or operator of the building or structure and paid to Forsyth County. Monies received from fines will go to Forsyth County.
 - (2) A separate civil penalty shall be exacted for each day in which a violation occurs, after due notice thereof from constituted authority.
 - (3) In the event of any litigation involving this ordinance, reasonable attorneys fees, costs of litigation, including depositions, interrogatories, certified mail, reproduction of documents, and other related expenses, and the costs of court may be recovered by Forsyth County. Monies received from fines will go to Forsyth County.
 - (4) Upon written notice from the Fire Marshal or his designee, work on any project that is being performed in violation of the provisions of this Ordinance and the Codes adopted therein and that is being done in a dangerous or unsafe manner, shall cease immediately. Such notice shall be given to the owner of the property, his agent, or the person doing the

work and shall state the conditions under which the work may be resumed.

- (5) Whenever any condition which is unsafe and/or in violation of the provisions or intent of the Codes or Ordinances enforced by the Fire Department, written notice shall be given to the owner, the owner's agent, or the occupant or the occupant's representative requiring that any activities impacted by said condition shall cease until the condition is corrected.

Section 24. Loss Recovery

Any individual or firm operating a commercial or industrial business who acts negligently, with gross negligence, or in violation of this ordinance or other governing laws and thereby requires the Forsyth County Fire Department to provide emergency response to a danger posed by a fire or hazardous substance shall be liable for reimbursement to the agency for the cost incurred. An individual or firm engaged in criminal conduct on their property, irrespective of whether the property is used for residential, commercial or industrial purposes, where such conduct necessitates an emergency response by the Forsyth County Fire Department, shall be liable for reimbursement to the agency for the cost incurred. If reimbursement is pursued by legal means other than restitution during a code enforcement or criminal prosecution, the County Attorney shall seek Board of Commissioner authorization prior to commencing legal action seeking reimbursement.

Section 25. Enforcement.

The provisions of this Ordinance shall be enforceable by the Fire Marshal or his designee, or any law enforcement officers authorized to enforce the Ordinances of Forsyth County.

Section 26. Separability.

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or any portion of this Ordinance be declared unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, or if the provisions of any part of this Ordinance as applied to any particular situation or set of circumstances shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional, such invalidity shall not be construed to affect the portions of this ordinance not so held to be invalid or the application of this

Ordinance to other circumstances not so held to be invalid, it is hereby declared to be the intent of the Board of Commissioners to provide for separable and divisible parts and it does hereby adopt any and all parts hereof as may not be held invalid for any reason.

Section 27. Repealer Provision.

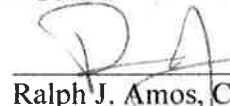
Any provision or section of a resolution, ordinance, regulation or other instruction previously approved by the Board of Commissioners or any other agency of Forsyth County which is inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance is repealed and revoked to the extent of such inconsistency and shall be of no further force and effect upon the effective date of this Ordinance; but it is hereby provided that any resolution or law which might be applicable hereto and aid in carrying out and making effective the intent, purpose, and provisions hereof, which shall be liberally construed to be in favor of Forsyth County, is hereby adopted as a part hereof.

Section 28. Effective Date and Applicability.

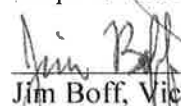
This Resolution and Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption hereof; provided, however, that the developmental standards/construction regulations contained herein shall become effective on November 7, 2013, and that compliance with such developmental standards/construction regulations shall be required for any development and/or project covered under this Ordinance on or after November 7, 2013. Additionally, the developmental standards/construction regulations contained in this Ordinance shall not apply to any development and/or project for which there exists an active land disturbance permit obtained on or before November 7, 2013, including any portion or phase of such development and/or project that has been included or identified on a plan or other document submitted to the Forsyth County Department of Planning and Community Development on or before November 7, 2013.

This Resolution is hereby adopted this 7th day of November, 2013, the public health, safety and general welfare demanding it.

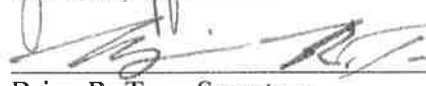
FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Ralph J. Amos, Chairman



Jim Boff, Vice Chairman



Brian R. Tam, Secretary




Todd Levent, Member



Cindy Jones Mills, Member

Attest:



Sonya Bush, Clerk

FORSYTH COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
Bureau of Fire Prevention
RAW WOOD WASTE PROCESSING / RECYCLING
STORAGE AND OPERATIONS

SUPERCEDES:

Standards are established in accordance with provisions of the Forsyth County Fire Prevention Ordinance. They are subject to the administrative sections covering alternative materials and methods, modifications, and the Board of Appeals.



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RAW WOOD WASTE PROCESSING / RECYCLING STORAGE AND OPERATIONS

SECTION 1--- GENERAL

Scope

The storage and processing of wood chips, hogged material, fines, compost, mulch and raw products in association with yard waste and recycling facilities located within Forsyth County shall be in accordance with the Forsyth County Ordinance and the International Fire Code.

Purpose

This standard shall provide guidelines for raw wood waste processors and recyclers and their operations. Wood chipping, hogging, composting and mulching operations and storage create a significant fire hazard and are rated as a very high hazard based on the 'Heat of Output' Btu per pound of product.

While generally more difficult to ignite than usual Class A combustibles such as paper and cardboard, after being ignited the spread of fire and smoke can be rapid and deep-seated. The larger the storage of raw wood products, the greater the fire hazard and the more difficult a fire is to control. Wood waste processors and recyclers and their operations shall comply with this standard.

Responsibility

All individuals and companies who engage or intend to engage in the storage, processing or handling of compost, mulch and organic materials shall comply with the requirement of the Forsyth County Fire Department and this standard.

Permit Required.

A permit shall be obtained from the fire department prior to engaging in the storing or processing of wood chips, hogged material, fines, compost and raw product in association with yard waste and similar material recycling facilities. The permit shall be renewed on an annual basis, or shall be limited to such period of time as designated by the Fire code official. Permits shall not be transferable and any change in use, location,

occupancy, operation, or ownership shall require a new permit.

Permit Office contact information for Wood Products and/or Waste Handling is as follows:

The Forsyth County Bureau of Fire Prevention

3520 Settingdown Road

Cumming, Ga 30028

Hours of operation: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday

Office phone (678)455-8072

To Email Customer Service Questions: firemarshal@forsoythco.com

Plans

The owner or operator shall develop the following plans for monitoring, controlling, and extinguishing spot fires and submit the plans to the Fire Marshal for review and approval.

A. Facility Site Plan

Facility site plans shall be submitted to the Fire Marshal for all raw wood waste processing and recycling operations. Facility site plans shall include fire department access roads throughout, area division of piles, pile height and width, and all exposures. A copy of the Facility Site Plan shall be maintained on-site.

B. Operational and Emergency Plans.

The following operational and emergency action plans shall be submitted to and be approved by the fire code official prior to initiating operation.

1. Operational Plan

At a minimum, the Operational Plan must include site layout, pile dimensions, fire access, water supply, site security, site operations, temperature monitoring, rotation, and diversion plan.

2. Emergency Plan

Emergency Plans shall include the facility operator's fire response actions, designated fire dispersal areas, equipment operators call back number, and initiation of incoming diversion plan. Emergency plans shall define the equipment necessary to process and handle the materials. All fires shall be

reported to the fire department immediately upon discovery by calling 911.

C. Equipment Operator Emergency Callback Plan

The operator shall implement and maintain a plan for rapid equipment operator response to the site. The maximum response time to the site for the equipment operator shall be within one hour of notification. The following equipment shall be on site: bulldozer, loaders, and heavy-duty equipment necessary to mitigate a fire. Skilled operators shall be available pursuant to an approved Emergency Callback Plan. Notification procedure shall be maintained operational 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Notification may be by pager activation or telephone answering service or other approved means.

D. Incoming Waste Diversion Plan

The operator shall develop and submit a diversion plan for incoming green waste for implementation in the event of equipment failure or other inability to process and distribute green waste. The plan shall prevent stockpiling of waste on the site and unauthorized depositing of waste on or near the site. The operator shall initiate the diversion based on criteria in the Operational and Emergency Plan without further direction from the fire department.

Non-processable or Non-Green Waste Material

All green waste that cannot be processed on-site, such as stumps and fibrous plants, shall be immediately removed from the feedstock, stored in roll-off containers or bins and removed from the facility no less frequently than on a weekly basis. All plastic bags shall be removed prior to shredding material.

Combustible Vegetation Control

The operator shall clear any combustible material, weeds, brush, trees or other vegetation (including mulch) that is, or could become, dry and could be capable of transmitting fire, from within fifty (50) feet of raw green waste and mulch piles. Clearance shall be to bare earth or other surface approved by the Fire code official. Individual growing trees within that distance may remain with approval of the Fire code official.

Pile Separation:

Piles subject to this ordinance shall be separated from adjacent piles and property lines by fire department access roadways.

Static Pile Protection

Interior pile temperatures of piles subject to this ordinance shall be monitored and recorded on a regular basis per the Operational Plan. Internal pile temperatures must be taken at 2/3 the pile height, 12 to 24 inches from the surface with a probe-type thermometer. Readings shall be made at not greater than 50-foot intervals along the length of the pile.

Once windrows exceed 158 degrees F, the Operator must institute reasonable measures to prevent internal temperatures from continuing to rise.

Once windrows exceed 170 degrees F, the windrows must be reduced in size, be rotated, and be monitored daily until temperatures drop below 158 degrees F. All green waste stockpiles shall be re-mixed as necessary to alleviate any fire due to spontaneous combustion or temperatures above 170 degrees F°.

Windrows shall be visually inspected on a weekly basis. Once fires have been detected in any windrows at a site, this visual inspection shall be a minimum daily requirement. Daily inspections shall continue until the threat of fire no longer exists, and the Fire code official approves suspension.

All temperature and pile-handling records shall be kept on file at the site and be made available for inspection by fire department personnel. Data shall include date, time, temperature, specific location, and person conducting measurement.

Time limits for processing

All combustible material stored by a facility to produce mulch or compost must be ground so that 100% has a particle size of six inches or less in at least one dimension and 90% has a particle size of six inches or less in all dimensions no later than 90 days after receipt. Material will not be considered processed until it is ground to the specified dimensions.

Site identification

Facility name and address shall be posted at main entrance and clearly visible from the street. A 24-hour emergency contact telephone number shall be posted at the main entrance and clearly visible from the street.

Security

A fence of at least six (6) feet in height of non-combustible material or other suitable means to prevent access of any unauthorized persons shall surround the entire property. Sufficient "No Trespassing" signs shall be posted. An adequate number of gates shall be provided in the surrounding fence or other barriers as determined by the Fire Marshal so as to provide ready access of fire apparatus.

Storage Site Storage

Storage areas shall be located on reasonably level, solid ground or other approved all-weather surfaces.

Fire Access Roadway

A fire access roadway shall be provided to the site and on-site as approved by the Fire code official. It shall have a minimum width based upon site material handling equipment and an approved all weather driving surface as approved by the Fire code official. In no case shall the fire access roadway be less than 30 feet wide.

Fire Department Access

Entry gates shall be a minimum of 14 feet in width to accommodate fire apparatus.

Area limitation

There shall be no materials stored in a pile which is within a single storage area (fire area) more than 35 feet from any driveway having access to a public street or more than 15 feet from a main aisle, or within 25 feet from the property line.

Size of piles

Piles shall not exceed a maximum of 15 feet in height, 100 feet in width and 150 feet in

length. The pile size should be limited. Fundamentally, several small piles with low heights are better than one large pile.

Exception:

The Fire Marshal is authorized to allow the pile size to be increased when additional fire protection is provided in accordance with the Fire Code. The increase shall be based upon the capabilities of the system installed.

Pile height indicators

Indicator posts of sufficient construction and taller than the highest point of each pile shall be installed. Indicator posts shall be marked at readily recognizable 5-foot increments so as to give visual height references at or near the highest point(s) of each pile. The posts shall not be positioned so as to interfere with access to the piles.

Fire protection

Fire protection provided shall be in accordance with this section and the *Fire Code*.

Pile fire protection

Automatic sprinkler protection shall be provided in conveyor tunnels and combustible enclosures that pass under a pile. Combustible conveyor systems and enclosed conveyor systems shall be equipped with an approved automatic sprinkler system. Temporary conveyors and motors on the surface or adjacent to the piles shall be prohibited. Where pile height and width is such that all portions of the pile cannot be reached by direct hose streams from the ground, arrangements shall be made to provide firefighting service to these portions of the pile, and small stream supplies shall be available on top of the pile for handling surface fires and for wetting the pile in dry weather.

Drainage

Stored material shall be arranged to facilitate and promote drainage from stored materials.

Water supply

A fire protection system consisting of approved monitor nozzle(s), water supply system, and fire hydrants capable of supplying the minimum required flow of 1500 GPM, shall be provided to within 500 feet of all portions of the site. Additional flows shall be provided as needed where conditions are reasonably likely to produce surface fires or internal fires. Where fire hose houses/stations are provided, fire hydrants connected to yard mains should be provided in accordance with NFPA 24. All water sources identified for use in fire suppression efforts shall be metered.

Fire extinguishers

Approved listed portable fire extinguishers, with minimum rating of 2-A: 10BC, shall be provided on all vehicles and equipment operating on the piles and at all processing equipment. Additional minimum 2-A fire extinguishers shall be provided for every 75 feet of unobstructed path of travel and in accordance with the Forsyth County Fire Safety and Protection Ordinance and the International Fire Code.

Buildings in storage areas

Buildings in outside storage areas and located within 50 feet of any storage pile shall be of 1-hour rated construction as required by the Forsyth County Building Code

Maintenance of premise

The entire storage site shall be kept free from accumulation of unnecessary combustible materials. Provisions for the maintenance of vegetation growth and periodic clean up of the entire area shall be adopted and followed. The frequency of such maintenance shall be increased when deemed necessary by the Fire Marshal to prevent excessive accumulation.

Heating equipment and smoking prohibited

No heating equipment shall be allowed in the storage or use area. Smoking or open flames shall be prohibited outside of designated areas. Sufficient "No Smoking" signs shall be posted at the direction of the Fire Marshal. All welding and other hot work shall be performed in accordance with the *Fire Code*

Protection from heat

Physical protection should be provided to prevent heat sources such as steam lines, air line, electrical motors and mechanical drive equipment from becoming buried or heavily coated with combustible material.

Material-handling equipment and vehicles

Material-handling equipment or scoop-type vehicles, as approved by the Fire Marshal, shall be available at every site for moving wood chips, hogged material, wood fines and raw product during firefighting operations. All vehicles shall be garaged in separate detached buildings or parked in designated areas located at least 50 feet from chipping or hogging operations or storage. All fuel handling shall be done in accordance with applicable provisions of the *Fire Code*.

SECTION 2 – DEFINITIONS

Aerated Static Pile means a composting process that uses an air distribution system to either blow or draw air through the pile. Little or no pile agitation or turning is performed.

Chipping and Grinding means an activity that mechanically reduces the size of organic matter.

Composting Operations means an operation that is conducted for the purpose of producing compost. Shall be by means of one or a combination of the following processes used to produce a compost product: static pile, windrow pile, or aerated static pile.

Fire Dispersal area means an approved area clear of any obstacles and of sufficient size to relocate piles of burning mulch or compost, to allow extinguishment.

Green Waste means the vegetative portion of the waste stream arising from various sources including waste from domestic and commercial premises and municipal operations. Green waste includes but is not limited to such organic material as yard trimmings, plant waste, manure, untreated wood wastes, paper products, and natural

fiber products.

Hogged Materials means mill waste consisting mainly of hogged bark but may include a mixture of bark, chips, dust, or other by-product from trees and vegetation.

Mulching means the process by which mixed green waste is mechanically reduced in size for the purpose of making compost.

Raw Wood Waste Processors and Recyclers means any person who, in compliance with all applicable state, federal and local laws, rules and regulations, disposes of or converts wood product produced from yard waste, debris, timber removal or pruning, or lumbering operations to other purposes, including but not limited to a person who disposes of such material:

- (a) In a landfill, or
- (b) By incineration, or
- (c) By shredding, hogging, grinding or chemically treating raw wood into basic components for mulch, compost or other marketable material, or
- (d) Otherwise disposing of raw wood waste;
- (e) Converting such material for use as fuel.

Exception: Commercial plywood, pressed wood, veneer and paper production facilities shall not be included in this definition.

Static Pile is a composting process in which wood product is mounded and is not being turned.

Windrow Where garden waste (leaves, branches and grass for example) and other biodegradable materials are shredded and mixed and placed into rows for large scale composting

SECTION 3 --- INSIDE BUILDING STORAGE

Storage and operations inside of a building

Storage and operations inside of a building shall be in accordance with *Fire Code*.

REFERENCES

1. Forsyth County *Fire Code*, International Fire Code, 2006 edition, as amended.
2. Forsyth County Building Code, International Building Code, current edition, as amended.
3. Forsyth County Fire Department, Bureau of Fire Prevention "Installation and Maintenance of Portable Fire Extinguishers".
4. Forsyth County Fire Department, Bureau of Fire Prevention, "Access Control Gates".
5. National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard No. 230, "Fire Protection of Storage", Appendix E-5.