

Ordinance # 040-16; Adopted 11/18/2016

**AN AMENDMENT TO THE COWETA COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES
BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF COWETA COUNTY, GEORGIA: AND**

IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE SAME THAT THE COWETA COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 34. FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION BE AMENDED TO ADD THE FOLLOWING:

ARTICLE V. OUTDOOR (OPEN) BURNING

Sec. 34.70. – General requirements.

1. All burning operations in Coweta 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.
2. Outdoor burning may not be conducted during any burning ban imposed for Coweta County by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, which is typically from May 1 through September 30.
3. No person shall cause, suffer, allow, or permit open burning in any area of Unincorporated Coweta County without a permit in accordance with state law as set forth in O.C.G.A. 12-6-90, and as permitted/required by the Georgia Forestry Commission.

Sec. 34-71. – Residential outdoor burning (Permit required).

1. Notwithstanding any other provisions herein to the contrary, residential burning shall include, but not limited to:
 - a) Reduction of leaves on premises on which they fall by the person in control of the premises, unless prohibited by local ordinance and/or regulation.
 - b) Fires set for purposes of training fire-fighting personnel when authorized by the appropriate governmental authority.
2. Any person engaging in residential burning shall comply with the following requirements:
 - a) The fire must be attended at all times by an adult;
 - b) The fire must be a minimum of 50 feet away from any structure, vehicle, or fixed flammable object;
 - c) The fire shall be at least 25 feet of the adjacent property line;
 - d) A garden hose, water supply, or extinguisher must be readily available at the site of the fire;

- e) Only natural products (i.e., leaves, tree limbs, etc.) may be burned. No household garbage or other hazardous materials (e.g., tires, plastics, etc.) may be burned;
- f) Burning of any type of structure is prohibited;
- g) All fires must be extinguished thoroughly when no longer in attended use or one hour before dark;
- h) Burning is prohibited when smoke presents a health hazard to persons in the vicinity of the fire or causes or may cause smoke or heat damage to structures or vehicles in the vicinity of the fire.

Sec. 34-72. – Recreational burning (No permit required).

1. Recreational fires (also known as campfires or bonfires) are allowed both before and after dark. A recreational fire must be contained inside a ring, pit, or rock border and grass clippings or leaves may not be burned as recreational use. A recreational fire shall be attended at all times by an adult. A recreational fire shall be extinguished thoroughly when no longer in attended use. A recreational fire may be no larger than six (6) feet by six (6) feet.
2. Outdoor fireplaces, chimineas, 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.

Sec. 34-73. – Enforcement.

1. The fire marshal or his or her designee shall be responsible for enforcement of this article. The fire marshal or his or her designee shall be authorized to issue a citation for violation of this or any other fire safety ordinance adopted by the board of commissioners.
2. The Coweta County Fire Department shall have the authority to cause any residential 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.

Sec. 34-74. – Burning restriction.

The fire marshal or his or her designee shall have the authority to impose additional safety precautions or restrict burning, including the issuance of a complete burning ban, if it is determined that open burning imposes a threat to the public health, safety and general welfare.

Chairman

Attest: _____
Clerk