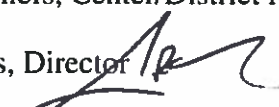




FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES
COMMISSIONER ADAM H. PUTNAM

MEMORANDUM

Date: September 13, 2017
To: Deputy Chiefs, Center/District Managers, and Operations Administrators
From: Jim Karels, Director 
Subject: Guidance Regarding Burning of Hurricane Debris

In accordance with Section 590.02, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Rule 5I-2.006(12), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), the following guidelines have been approved for implementation by all Florida Forest Service (FFS) Field Units in response to the emergency public health, safety, and welfare conditions created by Hurricane Irma.

Upon compliance with the following conditions, counties, municipalities, and agricultural operations may openly burn untreated vegetative debris caused by Hurricane Irma at FFS designated locations for a period of 60 days from the date of this memorandum. Designated sites must be mutually agreed upon by both the county or municipality and the Florida Forest Service.

- 1) Authorization must be obtained daily from the Florida Forest Service. However, multi-day authorizations may be granted by the local FFS Field Unit if certified pile burning is authorized.
- 2) FFS staff should use the "Land clearing Non-Residential" category in FMIS when issuing authorizations and place "Hurricane Debris" in comments section.
- 3) Piles must be at least three hundred (300) feet from any occupied building, one hundred (100) feet from any paved public roadway, and fifty feet (50) from any wildland, brush or combustible structure.
- 4) Burning piles must be attended at all times.
- 5) Burning piles must be burned during the allowable hours provided in Rule Chapter 5I-2, F.A.C.
- 6) Prior to burning, an initial on-site inspection (OSI) may be performed by FFS staff and periodic OSIs should be performed to ensure compliance.
- 7) Moisture content and composition of vegetative debris should be favorable to good burning to minimize emissions.

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It is the Florida Forest Service's intent to be sensitive to the needs of the affected citizens and to assist them in the process of returning to normal as quickly as possible. This may include providing citizens with the ability to burn "yard trash" as defined in Rule Chapter 5I-2, F.A.C., if it is not restricted by local ordinance. Field Unit fire prevention efforts must be augmented to increase public awareness of the potential for escaped fires.

cc: Jeff Vowell, Assistant Director
John Fish, Bureau Chief, Forest Protection
Erin Albury, Bureau Chief, Field Operations
John Saddler, Prescribed Fire Manager
Jeff Koerner, FDEP, Division of Air Resource Management