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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: November 14, 2016
TIME: 12 NOON
CONTACT: Nathan R. Bennett, County Manager

Burning Ban in Effect for Yancey County
County Prohibits All Outdoor Burning Until Further Notice

Effective immediately, **Yancey County prohibits all outdoor open burning across Yancey County, including within 100 feet of an occupied dwelling.** The ban applies to all open burning regardless of whether a permit was issued.

The open burning ban is authorized by the Yancey County Fire Marshal's Office per N.C. Fire Code, Section 307 to help prevent the potential for increased wildfires due to extremely dry conditions in the County. This decision was made in consultation with the Yancey County Fire Service, County Emergency Management, County Manager and the N.C. Forest Service.

The local ban follows an open burning ban issued November 7th by the N.C. Forest Service and their request for cooperation from local officials to extend the ban within their jurisdictions. Because of increased fire risk, the N.C. Forest Service has banned all open burning and canceled all burning permits for 25 North Carolina counties, including Yancey County. The issuance of new burning permits has also been suspended.

Open burning includes burning leaves, branches and other plant material in addition to the use of recreational fires, bonfires, and outdoor fireplaces. It is illegal to burn trash, lumber, tires, newspapers, plastics or other non-vegetative materials.

The ban will remain in effect until further notice. Local fire departments and law enforcement are assisting the N.C. Forest Service with enforcing the ban, which carries a \$100 fine plus court costs for each violation.

Questions about the local ban can be directed to the Yancey County Fire Marshal by calling (828) 284-5866. For more information about the N.C. Forest Service's regional open burning ban visit <http://ncforestservice.gov/> and click on the News page.

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