



NCFS Region Three Fire Update - Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023

Hours: 8 a.m.-8 p.m. **Phone:** (984) 233-9897 **Email:** ncfs.imt.information@ncagr.gov

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NCForestService/>

The **Poplar Drive Fire** in Henderson County remains 98% contained and 434 acres. One home, two cabins, one uninhabitable mobile home, one uninhabitable cabin and two outbuildings were destroyed. One home was damaged. Firefighters continue to mop up and work on rehabilitation and repair efforts around the fire footprint. The cause of the fire was determined to be a debris burn.

The **Branch Fire** in Wilkes County, which started Nov. 9, has reached 100% containment. The fire will continue to be patrolled and monitored by N.C. Forest Service personnel. The Branch Fire footprint was 80 acres and the cause remains under investigation.

The **Collett Ridge Fire** is burning in Cherokee and Clay counties. The fire remains 5,505 acres in size and 82% contained. The Collett Ridge Fire is being managed under unified command by the U.S. Forest Service and N.C. Forest Service. Information on this fire can be found at <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/ncncf-2023-collett-ridge-fire>. The cause of Collett Ridge was determined to be lightning.

The **Black Bear Fire** is burning in Haywood County on the Appalachian Ranger District of the Pisgah National Forest and is currently 1,193 acres and 0% contained. The fire started Nov. 16, resulting from a traffic accident on Interstate 40 near the NC/TN border. The fire spread in vegetation north of the highway and rapidly progressed up steep slopes, partially driven by southeast winds. No structures are currently threatened. Reduced visibility on I-40 due to fires in the area is possible. The Southern Area Blue Incident Management Team has transitioned from the Collett Ridge Fire and will be managing the Black Bear Fire. Information on this fire can be found at <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident-information/ncncf-2023-black-bear-fire>.

As of Nov. 17, 769 fires have burned on state and private lands statewide since Nov. 1.

Regional Weather: Partly cloudy skies becoming mostly sunny Saturday following the passage of a cold front early in the day. Gusty northwest winds will develop throughout the day. Winds from the west on Sunday will gradually become southerly with speeds 5-10mph. Cloud cover and humidity will increase Monday with humidity above 55%. A rain event is forecast to move into the area on Tuesday.

Burn Ban Notice: Effective 5 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 8, a burn ban was issued for Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Caldwell, Catawba, Haywood, Iredell, Lincoln, Madison, Mecklenburg, Mitchell, Watauga, Wilkes and Yancey counties. [Read the full news release.](#) Effective 5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 5, a burn ban was issued for Burke, Cherokee, Clay, Cleveland, Gaston, Graham, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, McDowell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain and Transylvania counties. [Read the full news release.](#) Both bans remain in effect until further notice.

Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR): A "TFR" is in place on the Black Bear Fire and Collett Ridge Fire. Complete information is at <https://tfr.faa.gov/tfr2/list.html>. Flying drones within a TFR designated area is unlawful. Flying a drone near or around a wildfire compromises the safety of pilots and interferes with firefighting efforts.

For Fire updates, visit https://www.ncforestservice.gov/fire_control/sit_report.htm or follow the N.C. Forest Service on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/NCForestService/>.