



Georgia Highway 82 Fire April 22, 2026

Office of the Governor

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Press release April 22, 2026:

“Gov. Kemp Declares State of Emergency in Response to South Georgia Wildfires

ATLANTA – Governor Brian P. Kemp today declared a State of Emergency for 91 Georgia counties in response to the ongoing wildfires in South Georgia. The governor also directed the Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) and other relevant state agencies to mobilize all necessary resources to assist with active response efforts in the southern region of the state. The State of Emergency, found [here](#), will remain in effect for 30 days, unless otherwise renewed.

*"With much of Georgia remaining in extreme drought conditions, wildfires have already surpassed the state's 5-year average and continue to spread," **said Governor Brian Kemp.** "My team and I are working closely with Georgia State Forester Johnny Sabo and his team, along with federal, state, and local officials, to ensure we are doing everything possible to combat the fires and provide assistance to affected communities. We are praying for the families who have lost their homes in these devastating conditions, as well as for the first responders working around the clock."*

The State of Emergency is in addition to the State Forester's [Burn Ban Order](#) issued earlier today for the same 91 counties. The burn ban will remain in effect for 30 days, unless otherwise extended, and prohibits, among other activities, prescribed burns as well as the burning of yard debris and agricultural material in the affected area.

The State of Emergency allows for the Georgia Department of Defense to mobilize Georgia National Guard troops and resources for response and

recovery efforts. Air assets and Guardsmen are being activated and deployed to the affected areas.

Among other provisions, the State of Emergency order also prohibits price gouging.

State Action and Response:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) declarations for the Pineland Road Fire burning in Clinch and Echols Counties and the Highway 82 Wildfire burning in Brantley County. A federal Incident Management Team (IMT) is also being called up to assist with response.

All relevant state agencies are assisting with ongoing response efforts, including the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which is providing three helicopters with fire suppression capabilities; a D6 Dozer and operator for debris removal; two Type 2 Water Engines and four team members; and ten Game Wardens to assist with evacuations, GFC investigations, and clearing burned structures and debris. The Georgia State Patrol (GSP) is providing three helicopters to support wildfire response efforts. Additionally, the Georgia Department of Agriculture is assisting with livestock relocation in impacted areas.

Wildfire Safety and Preparedness Guidance:

For current wildfire information and emergency updates, visit [Current Wildfire Information and Resources | Georgia Forestry Commission](#).

A live-time map of the active fires and response can be found [here](#).

GFC will provide ongoing updates via its website and social media accounts. Residents are encouraged to heed directives and information from their local authorities and Emergency Management departments.”

Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency

Brantley County Emergency Management Agency (EMA)

33 Allen Road

Nahunta, GA 31553

(912) 462-5256

[Brantley County EMA](#)

[Brantley County Government | Facebook](#)

Social media post April 22, 2026:

“BRANTLEY COUNTY FIRE EMERGENCY

A State of Emergency has officially been declared for Brantley County as of April 22, 2026 due to the ongoing wildfire. The Brantley County Board of Commissioners and Emergency Management Agency have activated the Emergency Operations Plan to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Brantley County citizens.

Please stay alert, follow evacuation guidance, and look out for your neighbors and community.

For official updates, follow the Brantley County Sheriff's Office on Facebook. [Brantley County Sheriff's Office | Facebook.](#)"

American Red Cross

American Red Cross of Southeast Georgia
41 Park of Commerce Way Building #200, Suite A
Savannah, GA 31405
(912) 651-5300

[Southeast Georgia | Georgia Region | American Red Cross](#)

Please visit the following link for a listing of nearby shelters: [Disaster Shelters | Find Shelters | American Red Cross](#)

Department of Transportation

GDOT: Georgia Department of Transportation
One Georgia Center
600 West Peachtree NW
Atlanta, GA 30308
(404) 631-1990
[Georgia Department of Transportation – GDOT](#)
[Georgia Department of Transportation | Facebook](#)
[Georgia DOT \(@GADeptofTrans\) / X](#)
[Georgia DOT - YouTube](#)

Please visit [511GA](#) for updated traffic conditions.

United Way/211 Information and Referrals Lines

These information and referral lines may know of additional resources currently providing assistance, such as food pantries, clothing closets, emergency shelters, and agencies offering financial assistance. Please dial 2-1-1 and provide your zip code and demographic information in order to receive referrals. Information can also be obtained at [Call 211 for Essential Community Services | United Way 211.](#)

2-1-1 Georgia

[211 – United Ways of Georgia](#)

Dial 2-1-1 from any phone.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

(800) 621-3362

[FEMA.gov](#)

Please visit the website and click on “*Disaster Declarations*”. If a disaster is declared, please call to apply for assistance by phone, or visit: [Individual Assistance | FEMA.gov](#) to apply online.

DisasterAssistance.gov

[Home | disasterassistance.gov](#)

Offers information about local resources for disasters, including: FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs), Red Cross, food, shelter, state emergency management agencies, and hospital locators.

To determine if individual disaster assistance is available through FEMA, please visit the website and enter the address.

To locate your local state emergency management agency for disaster information and updates, please visit: [Search Your Location | FEMA.gov](#)

American Red Cross National

(800) 733-2767

[American Red Cross | Help Those Affected by Disasters](#)

National Weather Service

Weather alerts by state are available at: [Active Alerts \(weather.gov\)](#).

The Weather Channel

Local forecasts and severe weather.

[National and Local Weather Radar, Daily Forecast, Hurricane and information from The Weather Channel and weather.com.](#)

Safe Travel USA

[SafeTravelUSA](#)

National Traffic And Road Closure Information

[National Traffic and Road Closure Information | Federal Highway Administration \(dot.gov\)](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov)

Free Help Line

Optum, a leading health and behavioral health services company, is offering a free emotional-support help line.

The toll-free number, 866-447-3573, will be open Monday-Friday, 8am-8pm CST. The service is free of charge and open to anyone. Specially trained Optum mental health specialists help people manage their stress and anxiety so they can continue to address their everyday needs. Callers may also receive referrals to community resources to help them with specific concerns, including financial and legal matters.

Along with the toll-free help line, emotional-support resources and information are available online at <https://www.liveandworkwell.com>.