

### **Communications Office**

1 Historic Courthouse Square ● Hendersonville, NC 28792 Phone (828) 697-4809 ● www.hendersoncountync.gov

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# **Henderson County Cancels State of Emergency**

HC-2023-35

Hendersonville, NC - November 15, 2023

Henderson County Board Chair Rebecca McCall has canceled the State of Emergency for Henderson County effective at noon, Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Working closely with our partners at the North Carolina Forest Service we have been able to return our local Fire Departments to their normal duties, allowing them to focus on their districts.

The cancellation of the State of Emergency does not affect the status of the local or state ban on open burning. "Henderson County remains in a high danger level for wildfires, while the rain received late last week provided some relief we still have a considerable amount of risk resulting from any open burning", notes Fire Marshal Kevin Waldrup.

The duration and complexity of the Poplar Drive Fire strained local resources requiring assistance from across the State. Working closely with our partners at North Carolina Emergency Management and the North Carolina Office of State Fire Marshal we were able to bring in additional resources to support the Edneyville Fire Department, allowing our local agencies to provide continued protection to their Fire Districts. "For years Henderson County has benefitted from strong partnerships across the State of North Carolina", said County Manager John Mitchell. "The teamwork and cooperation with the North Carolina Forest Service, North Carolina Emergency Management, North Carolina Office of State Fire Marshal, and Fire Departments from across the State have been critical to the successful management of this fire. I join the Fire Marshal and our partner agencies in asking all citizens in the county to help our firefighters by continuing to abide by the burn ban."

As the State of Emergency is canceled County Staff will continue the process of evaluating damages and starting the recovery process. Any property owners who had a structure damaged by the fire should contact the Emergency Management office at 828-697-4728 or visit <a href="https://www.hendersoncountync.gov/em">https://www.hendersoncountync.gov/em</a>.

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