

# Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service FIRE CHIEF'S GENERAL ORDER

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**TO:** All MCFRS Personnel

**FROM:** Fire Chief Corey Smedley *Corey Smedley*

**SUBJECT:** Gas Powered Leaf Blowers

Gas powered leaf blowers are carried on some MCFRS apparatus and are used for various applications including brush fires and motor vehicle scene clean-up. In addition, some MCFRS stations have this equipment for routine station maintenance use. The Montgomery County Council has passed legislation amending Section 31B of the County Code to ban the purchase, sale, and use of gas-powered leaf blowers. This has been widely advertised by the Montgomery County government through various media, and the County has been deliberate in noting that the ban extends to County government.

Section 31B-9 of the County Code bans the use of gas-powered leaf blowers but Section 31B-10(a)(2) provides an exemption for their use in "emergency operations by fire and rescue services."

MCFRS personnel must use gas-powered leaf blowers only for emergency operations.

Moving forward both MCFRS and LFRDs, when purchasing leaf blowers, must purchase battery operated leaf blowers.

Those stations possessing gas powered leaf blowers for routine maintenance use must discontinue that use.

If you have any questions, please contact the Apparatus Chief.