

Remember

During forest fire season (March 1 - May 31 and Oct. 1 - Dec. 31) no open burning may be conducted between the hours of 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. unless a commercial burning permit is obtained from the Division of Forestry and approval is obtained from the Division of Air Quality. There is no charge for this permit.

Division of Air Quality

Charleston	926-0475
Fairmont	368-3910
Romney	822-7266
Wheeling	238-1220

Division of Forestry

Beckley	256-6775
Charleston	558-2788
Fairmont	367-2793
French Creek	924-6266
Milton	743-6186
Parkersburg	420-4515
Romney	822-4512

West Virginia Department of Commerce
Division of Forestry
Gus R. Douglass Agricultural Center
at Guthrie, Building 13
1900 Kanawha Blvd. E
Charleston, WV 25305-0180

WV Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Air Quality
601 57th Street SE
Charleston, WV 25304

It all adds up to cleaner air!



west virginia department of environmental protection
and the west virginia division of forestry

www.wvdep.org

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OPEN BURNING



Know the law.

West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection
and the West Virginia Division of Forestry

Open air burning is a sort of tradition

But every time we burn outdoors, we contribute to air pollution in our area. Whether it's waste from yards, home, businesses, land-clearing, construction or demolition sites, it all adds up to unhealthy air.

What's blowing in the wind?

Smoke from outdoor burning clogs our air with a mixture of fine particles and other toxic pollutants that can lodge deep in our lungs when we breathe. It can make breathing difficult and cause serious health problems for many of us.

Not the same ol' trash

Burning household waste is a serious threat to public health and the environment. Toxic chemicals, including dioxins, are produced when household waste is burned. Open burning of household waste creates significant amounts of dioxins due to the low combustion temperatures, poor air distribution, and the presence of chlorine which is found in almost all household waste components. Dioxins are highly toxic even at extremely low levels, and have been linked to several adverse health conditions in both humans and laboratory animals. Not only are the people who burn trash at an increased risk, but so are their families and neighbors.

Burning of debris can cause an even bigger problem

...forest fires.

Be a good Neighbor

It is never legal to impact your neighbors with smoke, ash or odors. Always consider the time of day, proximity to others, type of material, wind direction and other weather conditions such as air stagnation.



Reduce, reuse, recycle

Many items that are burned in a trash pile or burn barrel can often be recycled.

Newspapers, glass, cardboard and many plastics can be recycled. Grass clippings and leaves are ideal to add to a compost pile. Your old attic junk could be given away for someone else to reuse.

Check in the back of your local telephone directory for recycling information and sites in your area.

It's the law- 45 CSR 6

Certain kinds of open burning are still allowed if it doesn't create a nuisance and if it is not prohibited by local ordinances. These type of fires are allowed:

- Vegetation (leaves, branches and other vegetative matter) grown on the premises of a home or farm.
- Campfires and outdoor barbecues.
- Vegetation from land clearing operations when a practical alternative disposal method is not possible. Pitburners should be used whenever practical and may be required in non-rural areas.*
- Fires for approved training of public and industrial employees and members of volunteer fire departments.*

* *Prior approval must be obtained from the appropriate regional office of the DEP's Division of Air Quality.*

If in violation of the open burning law, 45 CSR 6, refusal to comply may result in a Notice of Violation and/or a fine of up to \$10,000.00 a day.

Materials that are illegal to open burn include:

- Household trash
- Asphalt, rubber, or plastic

- Asbestos-containing materials including building materials
- Insulation from copper wire
- Waste paints, waste oil, or solvents

Guidelines for burning vegetation

- Must be thoroughly dried at least 10 days
- No trunks, limbs or stumps over eight inches in diameter (before splitting)
- Conducted during daylight hours
- Size piles to burn out before dark
- Fires must be completely extinguished and not allowed to smolder at night
- All fires must be surrounded by a 10-foot clearing to prevent escape to potential combustible materials
- Never leave fires unattended, and keep a shovel and water source nearby

Approved fire training includes:

- "Pan fires" using propane, fuel oil or wood
- Burning of structures for training purposes only — not merely disposal with the following provisions:
 - All asphalt or asbestos-containing materials must be removed
 - Demolition action subject to the Federal Asbestos National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants. Written notification required.
 - Upon completion of training, the fires must be immediately and completely extinguished to prevent smoldering.
 - Properly dispose of all remaining debris.