

# Colorado open burning information

## Who needs an open burning permit?

Anyone performing a non-exempted open burn in Colorado.

## Who doesn't need an open burning permit?

Campfires, non-commercial cooking fires and agricultural burning are exempted from open burn permitting. These burns are still subject to fire district and municipal fire rules.

## What is agricultural burning?

Agricultural burning is the burning of water conveyance ditches and/or fields to prepare land for the planting of **COMMERCIAL CROPS**. Land zoned as "agricultural" does not automatically provide exemption from open burn permitting.

## How do I apply for a permit?

If you wish to burn in the following counties, please contact the local health department or fire district:

- Boulder   - Denver   - El Paso   - Huerfano   - Kiowa   - Larimer   - Mesa   - Routt   - Teller  
- Broomfield   - Eagle   - Grand   - Jefferson   - Lake   - Las Animas   - Pueblo   - Summit   - Weld

Those living in counties not listed above need to apply for a **state** open burning permit through the Air Pollution Control Division. *There is no fee for this permit.* See the contact information below.

## What materials may be burned?

Untreated, natural wood (sticks, branches and limbs that do not exceed 6" in diameter), leaves, dry prairie grass, slash, weeds. All burns must be performed in open piles that do not exceed 8'x8'x8'. For broadcast burns, no more than 10 acres of grass or 5 acres of other vegetation may be burned. *Burning in barrels or incinerators is not allowed.*

## What materials are not allowed to be burned?

Tree stumps, tires, plastic, cut lumber, construction debris, pallets, furniture and trash. Burning of these materials produces pollution that is harmful to the environment to your and others' health!

## What happens if I burn without a permit?

The Air Quality Control Commission Regulation 9 provides guidelines for open burning. Burning without a permit or burning of prohibited materials can lead to a sizable civil penalty of up to \$10,000 per day (per C.R.S 25-7-123). **GET A PERMIT BEFORE YOU BURN!**

### Before you burn:

- Check with your local fire department regarding fire safety and municipal rules.
- Apply for a burn permit with the health department, fire district or CDPHE.

### On the day of your burn:

- Inform your fire department that you plan on burning.
- Make sure the fire is **out cold** before sundown.

## Questions?

Contact the Air Pollution Control Division:  
[cdphe.apopenburning@state.co.us](mailto:cdphe.apopenburning@state.co.us) or (303) 692-3268  
<https://www.colorado.gov/cdphe/openburn>



Colorado Department  
of Public Health  
and Environment

**Remember: YOU DON'T ALWAYS HAVE TO BURN!**  
**Many materials can be given away, mulched, reused or recycled.**