

**Why is a burning permit required?**

Burning permits are required to regulate the open burning of materials during times when a forest fire hazard exists and to provide the DNR Forest Fire Control organization with a method of determining which fires are authorized and which ones may be a forest fire.

**What are the risks of burning?**

You may be found guilty of either civil or criminal charges when burning outside of Wisconsin laws. In addition, if your fire escapes and becomes a forest fire, you will be charged for all costs of extinguishing the fire and, in civil action, may be charged for twice the value of any property damaged or destroyed.

**Things you can do to burn safely:**

- Don't burn without firefighting tools such as a shovel, rake and water hose or buckets of water at the site.
- A non-combustible firebreak of 5 feet should surround the material to be burned.
- Don't burn if the wind is stronger than 8 mph or if the weather forecast indicates the wind will increase during the time you burn.
- Keep the fire small. If you have a larger pile of brush, put the material on a little bit at a time.
- Don't ever leave your fire unattended. When you are done burning make sure the fire is completely out before leaving the scene.
- Fire can hold over in roots, stumps or other material and be rekindled at a later time. If that happens, you are still responsible for any costs or damage. Even if you have taken all the necessary precautions, check the site several times a day for several days after burning, just to be sure. There have been instances of fires smoldering for up to a month after they were supposedly put out.

**REMEMBER**

***Open burning is not a right! It is a privilege and can be taken away.  
You are responsible for damages and costs if your fire gets away.***