

# 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 COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

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

Those living in counties not listed above need to apply for a STATE open burning permit through CDPHE. *There is no fee for this permit.* See contact information below.

## **What materials may be burned?**

Untreated, natural wood (sticks and branches), leaves, dry prairie grass, slash, weeds. All burns must be performed in open piles. *Burning in barrels or incinerators is not allowed.*

## **What materials are not allowed to be burned?**

Tree stumps, tires, chemicals, plastic, cut lumber, construction debris, trash. Burning of these materials produces pollution that is harmful to the environment and the health of you and your neighbors!

## **What happens if I burn without a permit?**

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 an open burning permit with the local health department 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  
[cdpheAPopenburning@state.co.us](mailto:cdpheAPopenburning@state.co.us) – (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.**