

RESIDENTS' GUIDE TO OPEN AIR BURNING

Want to burn some lawn clippings or roast some marshmallows?
Keep it safe and know the rules for burning things outside a container.

TERMS TO KNOW

OPEN AIR BURNING

The burning of any matter in such a manner that the products resulting from combustion are emitted directly into the atmosphere without passing through a stack, duct, or chimney.

RECREATIONAL FIRE

A fire with natural wood meant for cooking, warmth, or just for fun that is not burned within a container.

BONFIRE

An outdoor fire used for ceremonial purposes.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Disposal of leaves, tree, yard, and garden trimmings originating from the private property that the open air burn will take place.

YARD WASTE

Debris from maintaining your yard. This could include lawn trimmings, leaves, or brush.

HOUSEHOLD WASTE

Any waste material, including garbage, trash, and refuse from households.



KEEP IT SAFE

- Don't leave a fire burning alone
- Do not leave children or pets alone with open flames
- Always have on hand at least one of these:
 - A hose
 - Bucket of water
 - Shovel with dirt or sand

DO YOU NEED A PERMIT?

It depends.

- You **DO NOT** need a permit if you are doing general maintenance on your property.
- You **DO** need a permit if you're clearing land for a new structure, driveway, water lines or the like.
- Still unsure? Give us a call, we'll discuss your plans and make sure you have all the info you need.



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THE RULES FOR STARTING AN OUTDOOR FIRE

ALBEMARLE COUNTY OPEN AIR BURNING CODE'S INTENT

The County of Albemarle, in an effort to achieve and maintain such levels of air quality as to protect human health, welfare, and the safety of its residents, has regulated open air burning within the County.



It's illegal to start an outdoor fire without planning on how to prevent it from spreading.

Always have on hand at least one of these:

- A hose
- Bucket of water
- Shovel with dirt or sand

Don't leave the fire alone.

Do not leave children or pets alone with open flames



Keep a safe clearance around RECREATIONAL fires.

Start your fire at least:

- 25 feet from structures
- 50 feet from combustibles

Keep a wide clearance when burning YARD WASTE.

Start your fire at least:

- 300 feet from structures
- 50 feet from combustibles



Don't add fuel to the flames.

Don't add gasoline, lighter fluid, diesel or the like to your fire.



Anytime you strike a fire, call the Emergency Communications Center at 434-977-9041.

By providing information to the ECC, you provide vital information to first responders and the entire emergency network.

Don't burn household waste.

It's never ok to burn trash.



For the entire text of the open air burning laws,
visit ACFireRescue.org or call 434-296-5833.

